

Italy Defends Its Eligibility for Euro

Ciampi Rejects Fears That It Won't Be Able to Keep Up Its Recovery

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Days after the Bundesbank questioned Italy's high level of public debt, the Italian finance minister, Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, defended his government's ability Tuesday to join the planned European single currency and to sustain the dramatic economic improvement it has achieved in the past couple of years.

Referring indirectly to the German criticism, Mr. Ciampi said: "There are those who fear that the excellent results obtained in terms of low deficits and

low inflation are the result of intensive effort but not sustainable. But our severest judges — the markets — do not share these fears."

Public debt in Italy and Belgium is more than double the 60 percent of gross domestic product that the Maastricht treaty on European Union set as a target for countries adopting the single currency, the euro.

At a conference organized by the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe, Mr. Ciampi acknowledged that his country's accumulated debt was "a heavy burden that weighs on us and will continue to do so."

Nevertheless, he said the debt was coming down as Italy trimmed deficit spending and sold off state-owned industries. He reaffirmed the government's intention to reduce the debt to less than 100 percent of GDP within six years.

Another speaker, a former British chancellor of the Exchequer, Kenneth Clarke, said that based on present performance, Italy would never achieve the 60 percent debt-to-GDP ratio. Italy is budgeting a 2.5 percent deficit in 1998, whereas Mr. Clarke said it needed to produce an annual surplus of 3.1 percent

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A Wary Bundesbank Puts in a Subtext

In Veiled Terms, Bank Suggests Europe Is Unprepared for Single Currency

By John Vinocur
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The long-term message from the German central bank's report on the future of Europe's planned Economic and Monetary Union seems much darker than its statement last week that introducing a single European currency next year "appears justifiable."

As with scripture that seems to beg for interpretation, no single sentence predicts deep and specific trouble for the undertaking; yet, as an ensemble, the report reads almost ominously.

Standing back from what it stresses is a start-up decision by politicians rather than economists, the Bundesbank says that most of the 11 countries that will form the EMU are inadequately prepared to live up to the stability criteria that are to regulate their economic performance beyond the introduction of the single currency, the euro.

The member countries, although making progress against inflation, have not been able to create a uniform "culture of stability," the Bundesbank says, and it insists that in

some cases, countries' success in reducing deficits has more to do with one-time measures than sustainable policy decisions.

Adding in the worries it expresses about the inadequacy of social-security reform and its admonitions that new prosperity cannot come to Europe without rapid and widespread changes such as more flexible labor markets, the Bundesbank seems to have wanted to put down a historical marker identifying its deep skepticism on the introduction of the single currency.

The Bundesbank — as the emblem of the restrictive policies that provided the basis of the Maastricht Treaty and now govern the so-called Stability and Growth Pact that will guide Europe's economies beyond 1999 — clearly has used its report to express more concern about the euro than conviction.

Nowhere in the report, issued Friday, were there positive judgments stated with force equal to these critical observations.

See EUROPE, Page 6

For Some Israelis, a TV History of the Nation Airs Wrong Voices

By Marjorie Miller
Los Angeles Times Service

JERUSALEM — History is written by the victors, it is often said, but in Israel even the winners do not agree on how to portray their past.

State-run Israel Television is airing a 22-part documentary series for the 50th anniversary of the state that has enraged many Israelis and apparently enlightened others by telling the story of their founding from the perspective of Jewish as well as the victors.

For the first time on television, the series will show the "marginalized" Israelis, and the terrorism to which they were subjected.

Yael Yagor, a historian and radio commentator, said the series is a trigger so that young people will go to the books and try to learn about Israeli history.

Whether or not you agree with the program, they are raising the right questions. The only way to find a solution between Israelis and Arabs on the land is to raise the right questions. That is the first step on a long journey.

The public controversy over "Tekuma" (Rebirth), as the series is called, mirrors a debate that has been going on in Israeli academic journals for more than a decade. At issue is the story

a key figure for most of Israel's 50 years, wrote a letter to Education Minister Yitzhak Levy complaining that the series "distorts the history of our redemption, abandoning every moral basis for the establishment and existence of the state of Israel" and urging him not to use the programs in Israeli schools.

And, the host of the series, Yehoram Gaon, "quit halfway through rather than appear on a segment that presents the views of Palestinians who carried out terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians."

"I felt good with the first episodes, which discussed the past and reminded me of my childhood," Mr. Gaon wrote in his resignation letter, "but I find it hard to forget my feelings when presenting the episodes dealing with the present."

Supporters of the series say its virtue is precisely that: It does not make Israelis feel good with the official line but raises painful questions and provokes debate.

"There is no objective history," said Yael Yagor, a historian and radio commentator. "The series is a trigger so that young people will go to the books and try to learn about Israeli history."

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Judgment Near for Papon, 'Emblem' of Vichy Rule

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

BORDEAUX — His day of reckoning at hand, Maurice Papon reached the end of his six-month trial for war crimes much as he had begun it: an old man in the dock who stood for something else.

In closing arguments due to end Wednesday, Mr. Papon's defense attorney called the proceedings "the last purge trial" of World War II. For one of his accusers, Mr. Papon remained "the symbol of the government bureaucracy" who rubber-stamped hundreds of Jews, his fellow-citizens, to their doom under the German. He was the "emblem of Vichy" — France's compliant wartime government.

| Newsstand Prices | |
|------------------|------------|
| Andorra | 10.00 FF |
| Antilles | 12.50 FF |
| Cameroun | 1.600 CFA |
| Egypt | 5.50 |
| France | 10.00 FF |
| Gabon | 1.100 CFA |
| Italy | 2.800 Lire |
| Ivory Coast | 1.250 CFA |
| Jordan | 1.250 JD |
| Kuwait | 700 Fils |
| Lebanon | 11.300 |
| Morocco | 18 Dh |
| Oman | 10.00 OMR |
| Réunion | 12.50 FF |
| Saudi Arabia | 10 SR |
| Senegal | 1.100 CFA |
| Spain | 225 Ptas |
| Tunisia | 1.250 Din |
| U.A.E. | 10.00 Dh |
| U.S. Mil. (Eur.) | \$1.20 |

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AGENDA

U.S. Assails Japan And EU on Trade

WASHINGTON (AP) — Japan and the European Union were singled out by the Clinton administration Tuesday for the largest amount of criticism among trading partners accused of erecting unfair barriers to U.S. exports.

The criticism came in an annual government trade report that was made public Tuesday.

| The Dollar | | |
|------------|----------------|----------------|
| New York | Tuesday 3 P.M. | previous close |
| DM | 1.848 | 1.8482 |
| Pound | 1.6715 | 1.678 |
| Yen | 133.13 | 132.065 |
| FF | 6.1905 | 6.1912 |

| The Dow | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------|
| Tuesday close | previous close | |
| 470.75 | 8852.87 | 8782.12 |

| S&P 500 | | |
|---------|----------------|----------------|
| change | Tuesday 3 P.M. | previous close |
| +13.62 | 1108.10 | 1092.48 |

| Books | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Crossword | Page 9. |
| Opinion | Pages 8-9. |
| Sports | Pages 18-19. |

| The Internet | |
|-----------------|------------|
| The IHT on-line | www.ih.com |

Yeltsin's Pick Is Epitome Of the Hustle Generation

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — The latest prime minister of post-Soviet Russia, Viktor Chernomyrdin, was straight out of the old school, the elite of the Soviet Union, the *nomenklatura*. The first prime minister, Yegor Gaidar, was a radical reformer, an economist and theorist.

But the man President Boris Yeltsin has nominated to be the next prime minister is the epitome of a generation that stood at the cutting edge of Russia's quest to become a market economy — and did something about it.

Sergei Kiriyenko, 35, chosen last week to head the fractious, weakened Russian government, has been in Moscow less than a year, first as deputy minister of fuel and energy, then as minister. His nomination is already under fire from critics who say he lacks experience to be second-in-command of troubled Russia.

Mr. Kiriyenko's career path, from shipyard engineer to banker and oilman, is emblematic of that taken by a wave of young, politically savvy, ambitious Russian capitalists who now run the country's banks and conglomerates.

They were young enough to seize the opportunities that arose in the Soviet system under Mikhail Gorbachev, exploiting the colossal gaps opening between the controlled, Soviet-era economy and the new, free one.

This technique, known as arbitrage, played on the weakness of the state and the hustle of the young generation. Most of the bankers and industrialists who now form what is called the Russian oligarchy got their start this way. Long before they were grabbing the state's most lucrative mines, factories and property, they were feverishly working as middlemen dealing in oil, coal, steel, automobiles and anything else that could be bought low and sold high. They knew how to find a ton of cheap oil, for example, and sell it abroad for breathtaking profits.

Alfred Volkov, a professor at the Academy of National Economy here who supervised Mr. Kiriyenko during a two-year management course, described those times. "There was a big difference between domestic and world prices, especially in energy," he said. "Any sale in the world market brought a lot of profits — and in 1992 it was crazy profits, absolutely crazy."

Mr. Kiriyenko originally intended to be a ship engineer. He had a diploma from the Gorky Institute of Water Transport Engineering in the Volga River city that is now called Nizhni Novgorod.

But in 1991, Mr. Kiriyenko won admission to the Academy of National Economy, under the leadership of Abel Aganbegyan, an influential adviser

Athens Gets Assurance From Yeltsin On Missiles

Weapons for Cyprus Raise Prospect of More Russian Arms Sales

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin, eyeing future arms sales to Greece, reassured Athens on Tuesday that Moscow would not back down over a controversial deal to deliver missiles to Cyprus.

The Russian president met Defense Minister Apostolos Athanassios Tsouhazopoulos of Greece in a departure from protocol described by the Kremlin as underlining the "special prospects for Russian-Greek military and technical cooperation," the Interfax press agency said.

Interfax quoted Sergei Yastrzhembsky, a Kremlin spokesman, as saying Mr. Yeltsin had assured Mr. Tsouhazopoulos of "Moscow's determination to fulfill the contract to provide Cyprus with the S-300 anti-missile defense system on time."

Turkey said last week that the deployment of the surface-to-air missiles on the divided island, expected in September or October, could lead to fighting.

Turkey has about 30,000 troops on Cyprus, which has been split since Turkish forces invaded the north of the island in 1974 after a brief Greek-Cypriot coup engineered by Greece. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is recognized only by Ankara.

The Greek-Cypriot government, which is recognized internationally, has about 10,000 guards on the island.

Tensions flared Jan. 4 when the Greek-Cypriot government announced that it had signed a deal with Russia to buy long-range ground-to-air missiles.

Since then, Turkey has threatened military action against the Greek-ruled part of Cyprus to stop it from deploying the missiles. Turkey also has threatened to set up air and naval bases in the northern part of Cyprus that it occupies, if Greece continues to set up military bases in the southern part of the island.

Mr. Tsouhazopoulos, meanwhile, thanked Moscow for backing the Greek-Cypriot government during his meeting with Mr. Yeltsin, which focused on geopolitics, in particular the crises in Serbia's Kosovo Province and Iraq. Interfax quoted Mr. Yastrzhembsky as saying.

The Inter-Tass press agency had said

See CYPRUS, Page 6

U.S. Disputes Tokyo's Claim On Tainted Seed Imports

By Mary Jordan
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — The Japanese government has linked a mysterious food poisoning outbreak last year to radish sprout seeds grown in the United States, an allegation that U.S. officials say is reckless and damaging to American farmers.

Japanese health officials announced to the Japanese public Monday that their genetic testing showed that seeds from Oregon were contaminated with the potentially deadly strain of bacteria known as E. coli O157:H7.

Japanese officials say they believe the white radish seeds, used to produce sprouts, were responsible for making as many as 120 people sick in March 1997.

Hideshi Michino, a Health and Welfare Ministry official, said that "our aim is not to finger a culprit, but to protect people by letting them know we have found that seeds from Oregon were contaminated."

In 1996, the same bacteria was blamed for killing at least three people and poisoning nearly 8,000 in an alarming outbreak that shut schools and swimming pools.

The cause of that epidemic has never been determined, and Japanese officials say they have no proof that American seeds were to blame for the larger outbreak. But Japanese officials have said that they believe radish sprouts may have caused the 1996 epidemic as well.

Angry U.S. agriculture officials called the charge against U.S. products reckless. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said the Japanese scientific findings were inconclusive at best.

Officials at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo were in turns outraged and amused that one of the worst outbreaks of food poisoning in Japanese history had been blamed on foreign food, and

See POISON, Page 6



Taipei Closes Brothels / Wilted 'Buds of Grace'

Driving Vice Underground

By Edward A. Gargan
New York Times Service

TAIPEI — Six hard chairs sat empty against the mustard yellow wall, next to a curtain of red velvet that hung more like a shroud than an invitation.

"Men," whispered a rouged Kuan Hsiu-chin, pointing a lacquered crimson fingernail toward the doorsill, "cannot cross there."

Buds of Grace Tower is closed — closed by mayoral fiat, closed by political expediency, closed in a frenzy of public moralizing.

Buds of Grace was one of Taipei's 18 legal brothels, brothels that employed, along with Ms. Kuan, 143 other licensed prostitutes until Taipei's crusading mayor, Chen Shui-bian, ordered them shut last year.

"America doesn't have licensed prostitutes, Japan doesn't have licensed prostitutes," observed Mr. Chen, who swept the long-ruling Kuomintang, or Nationalist Party, from power in Taipei in 1994 and who is now regarded as a potential contender for the country's presidency in 2000.

"Taiwan is a member of international society and it must take the same steps as the majority, which don't have licensed prostitution," he said. "We must move forward with the current of the times."

But for Ms. Kuan, and the other licensed prostitutes of Taipei, the mayor's decision to close their brothels smacked of little more than opportunism born of political image-making. Angered by the mayor's decision, she and her colleagues have rallied in defiance, besieging City Hall and city councilors, demanding that they be allowed to return to work, the only work they say they know.

Hugged on one side by a gold merchant and the other by a red-columbed Buddhist temple, Ms. Kuan's brothel was visited last September by the police, who removed the plastic sign over the door and smashed it.

From that moment, no customers were allowed to cross the portal and take one of the women who sat on the straight-backed chairs to one of four Spartan cubicles past the red velvet curtain.

"Chen Shui-bian wants to make this a city for rich people," said Ms. Kuan. "He wants to chase people at the bottom like me out."

Ms. Kuan, 48, said she had worked at Buds of Grace for eight years.

Although she hesitated to talk about the circumstances that led her to prostitution, she said that she had three children to support and that this was the only work she could do.

"For thousands of years this has existed," she said, as she sat on one of the front-room chairs, carefully made up and dressed in a black blouse studded with sequins. "Wherever there are men there are women. Everyone should understand this. There is no country in the world that doesn't have this. The only question is, is it legal or illegal?"

Wherever there are men there are women. There is no country in the world that doesn't have this. The only question is, is it legal or illegal?

Most annoying to Ms. Kuan, beyond losing her job, is that tens of thousands of unlicensed, illegal prostitutes are still plying their trade in this city of 6 million that has long been known for its relaxed attitudes toward sexual entertainments. Indeed, at most five-star hotels here, as well as at innumerable "love hotels," illegal prostitutes are readily available.

The licensing of prostitutes in Taiwan goes back a century, first under Japanese rule, and then under the Nationalist government.

Until last year, there were 55 licensed brothels in Taiwan employing 364 women. From the 18 women at Buds of Grace Tower here in Taipei, to the two women who worked in a tiny brothel in Nantou, all were required to undergo medical checks each week for sexually transmitted disease.

Ms. Kuan thumbed the pages of her work permit, pages splashed with the blue stamps from her weekly clinic visits, and then unrolled Buds of Grace's license, "Taipei City Brothel Permit," it read, No. 1009.

"We get 700 Taiwan dollars for each customer," she explained, about \$22, "and the madam gets 300," or about \$9.40. "This is far more than you can make in a factory. Ours is a very egalitarian profession."

Ms. Kuan said that when her brothel was in business, she earned 100,000 Taiwan dollars in an average month, about \$3,125.

"This is very safe work," she said. "If the guest isn't polite or drinks, you can throw him out. We're not the same as private prostitutes."

Ms. Kuan, who does not read very well, said that she could not find any other job at her age and so for the moment was relying on \$470 a month in unemployment benefits from the city. And like many of the other women, she continues to live at the brothel.

"They say we have no dignity," Ms. Kuan said quietly, sitting beside a pair of red scrolls daubed with a classical Chinese couplet: "Protect a flower and sympathize with the fragrant guest; Love uncut jade and it becomes a cherished gem."

"We don't steal," she said. "We don't cheat. What is undignified about that?"

"If we take handouts from the government, that is undignified."

"Everyone does what they can."



Kuan Hsiu-chin, a licensed prostitute in Taipei, says her job was safe and paid well.

"This vice is a fact," he said. "But we don't want to let it get out of hand. Licensed prostitution has been going down anyway."

Many of the women who worked in the brothels said they have no other way of earning a living, and certainly no way to earn as much as they had as prostitutes. Already, three prostitutes are reported to have attempted suicide, apparently in despair over finding a way to support their families.

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Africa's Cloudy Beacon

Once a Model, Senegal's Democracy Falters

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

DAKAR, Senegal — When Leopold Sedar Senghor, the poet who was this country's first president, voluntarily resigned from politics in 1980 after more than 20 years in office, the gesture sent shock waves throughout this region.

Mr. Senghor's peers were still reeling from his gradual introduction of multiparty politics, starting in 1976, which broke with a near-uniform pattern of one-party rule in West Africa.

But for French-speaking authoritarians like Felix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea, or Seyni Kountché of Niger, the resignation was tantamount to sacrilege against the seeming unwritten rule of African politics: power is far too precious to be surrendered.

Eighteen years later, Mr. Senghor's chosen successor, Abdou Diouf, remains president of this country of nine million people, where President Bill Clinton arrived Tuesday. But Mr. Diouf, 63, who was prime minister for 10 years before he became president, is already gearing up for re-election to another seven-year term two years from now.

For many in Senegal, and increasingly for political analysts throughout West Africa, the story of Mr. Diouf's tenure is one of how a country once considered a progressive model showing the possibilities of African politics has become a cautionary example of political cynicism and complacency.

In the 1990s, while other countries in the region were rejecting their one-party pasts and organizing increasingly competitive elections, many Senegalese have complained that their country, long known for political openness and innovation, has held a series of elections in which a machine-like ruling party has bought votes, played with the rules or manipulated the results to maintain its 38-year lock on power.

It is widely believed in Senegal, for example, that an opposition candidate rightfully won the 1988 presidential election. The latest example of vote-tampering occurred in 1996, when a Western diplomat called local elections "flawed both in terms of process and in terms of fraud."

For many Senegalese, the ultimate sign of backsliding came recently when a government minister and senior member of the governing Socialist Party, Khalifa Sall, proposed changing the constitution to lift the two-term limit on the presidency, a provision considered revolutionary when Senegal adopted it in 1991.

"When a citizen has the confidence of his fellow countrymen he should be able to run at all times," Mr. Sall said, pleading to lead the drive to amend the constitution. But his proposal unleashed a torrent of criticism.

"Finally what one must conclude is that it is very comfortable to be in power," said Landing Savane, leader of the opposition party And Jef, who was once jailed for protesting fraud. "But after 20 years in power, a ruling clique comes to resemble a mafia, and heads of the mafia generally don't resign."

When Prime Minister Lionel Jospin of France visited several former French colonies in December, he urged Africa to develop a "genuine culture of alternation and opposition, without which democracy in any country, including the West, cannot exist."

Although Mr. Jospin's remarks were made in neighboring Mali, many Senegalese welcomed the forceful language of a Western leader in favor of African democracy, and have said they hope that Mr. Clinton will be similarly outspoken.

Ousman Tanor Dieng, the first secretary of Senegal's governing party and minister of presidential affairs, said he welcomed the statements by Mr. Jospin and other foreign leaders, but he said they would have little impact.

For now the biggest challenges to Mr. Diouf and his party will come not from foreign diplomats or longtime opponents, but from former political insiders. In this regard, Senegal may again set an example for others in West Africa.

With legislative elections in May, this country's political scene has been shaken by the creeping defection from the Socialist Party of a former foreign minister, Djibo Ka, whose calls for democratic changes, coming from a dissenting insider, have struck a chord here.

Taken aback by Mr. Ka's outspoken appeals in December for a new democratic spirit in the country, the party suspended him from its membership, and the government temporarily banned him from leaving the country.

But these measures made Mr. Ka a national celebrity, and jump-started his efforts to recruit dissident candidates for the legislative elections.

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U.S. Report Blames German Crew for Crash Near Africa

By Bradley Graham
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — U.S. Air Force investigators have concluded that a German military plane was flying at the wrong altitude off the coast of Africa on Sept. 13 when it collided with a U.S. military C-141, killing all 33 people on the planes.

A report released Tuesday holds the crew of the German Tupolev-154 chiefly responsible for the late afternoon collision at 35,000 feet (10,668 meters) over the Atlantic about 65 nautical miles (120 kilometers) west of Namibia. But the report also cites air-traffic controllers in Luanda, Angola, and the "convoluted" routing of air-traffic control messages through a complicated regional communications system as "substantially contributing" factors.

The American aircraft was en route to the Azores, about an hour after departing Namibia, when it collided with the German plane, which was flying to Namibia from Niger.

The U.S. plane was cruising at its assigned altitude of 35,000 feet, while the German aircraft had planned to fly at 39,000 feet, investigators found. "In the direction it was heading, the plane should not have been at that altitude under international aviation stipulations," the report says.

Colonel William J. Air Force, "The report refers to the sign in the cockpit."

Bella Abzug, Feminist and Politician, Is Dead at 77

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former Representative Bella Abzug, 77, the raspy-voiced, hat-wearing feminist who fought for civil rights and against the war in Vietnam, died Tuesday.

Ms. Abzug died of complications following heart surgery at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York, according to Harold Hotzler, her spokesman. She had been hospitalized for about three and a half weeks.

In the 21st century, "Women will change the nature of power, rather than power changing the nature of women," Ms. Abzug said in 1996.

She had helped pave the way nearly 30 years earlier.

With the slogan "This woman's place is in the House — the House of Representatives" and the backing of the New York Democratic Party's reform wing, Ms. Abzug beat Representative Leonard F. Baskin, a seven-term Democrat, in the 1970 primary on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

She then defeated the talk-show host Barry Farber by fewer than 9,000 votes in the general election, becoming the first Jewish woman in Congress.

It was the early years of what was still known as "women's liberation," and tough-minded women were treated as a curiosity.

Ms. Abzug, a labor and civil rights lawyer and peace activist before she went into politics, became a lightning rod for publicity. She often said that the adjectives would have been different if she had been a man — "courageous"

instead of "abrasive," "forceful" instead of "strident."

"There are those who say I'm impatient, impetuous, uppity, rude, profane, brash and overbearing," she wrote in her 1972 book, "Bella!." "Whether I'm any of these things, or all of them, you can decide for yourself. But whatever I am — and this ought to be made very clear at the outset — I am a very serious woman."

On her first day in Congress, Ms. Abzug introduced a resolution to withdraw all U.S. soldiers from Indochina. It was defeated. She had better luck when she invoked a little-known procedural tactic that forced the Nixon administration to surrender

the Vietnam documents known as the Pentagon Papers.

In 1976, she decided to run against Daniel Moynihan in the Democratic Senate primary instead of running for a fourth term.

Mr. Moynihan won the primary and, that November, the Senate seat he continues to hold.

"Bartlin Bella" and "Mother Courage," as she was dubbed by the tabloids, also lost runs for New York City mayor and two attempts to return to Congress.

Her last bid was in 1986, the year her husband, Martin Abzug, died. She returned to suburban Westchester County, where she and her husband had raised

their family, and tried to unseat a first-term Republican, Representative Joseph DiGiorgio.

She retained her tough personality — and the disdain of conservatives — through the years. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter fired her from an advisory committee after she criticized him. In 1996, she said she supported President Bill Clinton's re-election "because the Republicans are advancing a pre-fascist state."

In 1995, former President George Bush, noting her attendance at the UN conference on women in Beijing, said: "I feel somewhat sorry for the Chinese having Bella Abzug running around China."

TRAVEL UPDATE

Austria Frees Borders

VIENNA (AFP) — Austria will abolish land border controls with Germany and Italy on Wednesday as it joins the Schengen border-free area within the European Union.

The Bavarian interior minister, Guenther Beckstein, expressed reservations about Italy's ability to control its long maritime border to stop illegal immigrants from getting into the country.

But the Austrian foreign minister, Karl Schloegel, said that in 1997 only 3 percent of illegal immigrants arrested in Austria had transited through Italy.

Signatory countries of the Schengen

accord are Austria, the Benelux countries, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain.

Commuters on their way to work Wednesday on one of Singapore's main highways will have a toll deducted from a stored-value cash card by a computerized robotic eye. (AP)

Russian Transsiberian airlines will begin service between Moscow and Strasbourg and add three weekly flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv to its current five. (Reuters)

Philippine officials ordered the country's virgin forests closed to tourists this summer to prevent fires. (AP)

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| DENMARK | 720 | 310 | 54% |
| FINLAND | 624 | 310 | 54% |
| FRANCE | 220 | 110 | 54% |
| GERMANY | 182 | 72 | 54% |
| GREAT BRITAIN | 220 | 110 | 54% |
| HONG KONG | 132 | 55 | 54% |
| ITALY | 145,400 | 52,000 | 54% |
| JAPAN | 26,000 | 12,000 | 54% |
| MALAYSIA | 132 | 108 | 49% |
| NETHERLANDS | 195 | 78 | 54% |
| NEW ZEALAND | 324 | 136 | 54% |
| NORWAY | 121 | 55 | 49% |
| SPAIN | 11,700 | 5,000 | 54% |
| SWEDEN | 822 | 350 | 54% |
| SWITZERLAND | 120 | 60 | 54% |
| USA | 78 | 43 | 45% |

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WEATHER
Forecast for Thursday through Saturday, as provided by AccuWeather.

| Region | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------|---|--|--|
| Europe | Partly sunny and comfortable in the Northeast; dry through Saturday; cooler with rain likely Saturday; dry and comfortable in the Southwest Thursday, but then sunny and turning much warmer Friday and Saturday. | Dry and very warm Thursday; central Europe to Romania; dry and comfortable in the Southwest Thursday, but then sunny and turning much warmer Friday and Saturday. | Cool with some sunshine; mild with rain in Tokyo Sunday; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. |
| North America | Partly sunny and comfortable in the Northeast; dry through Saturday; cooler with rain likely Saturday; dry and comfortable in the Southwest Thursday, but then sunny and turning much warmer Friday and Saturday. | Dry and very warm Thursday; central Europe to Romania; dry and comfortable in the Southwest Thursday, but then sunny and turning much warmer Friday and Saturday. | Cool with some sunshine; mild with rain in Tokyo Sunday; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. |
| Asia | Cool with some sunshine; mild with rain in Tokyo Sunday; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. | Cool with some sunshine; mild with rain in Tokyo Sunday; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. | Cool with some sunshine; mild with rain in Tokyo Sunday; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. Dry with sun; some sunshine into the weekend. |

Legend: S=sunny, p=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, f=furthest, i=ice, sn=snow, H=high, W=weather.

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Conduct on Both Sides in the Jones Suit Is Called Particularly Nasty

By Ruth Marcus
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Civil litigation can be a nasty business. But in the lengthy annals of legal nastiness, the conduct of both sides in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton has been particularly unpleasant and some legal experts say the lawyers have crossed over the line of appropriate conduct.

In the last few weeks, Mrs. Jones's lawyers have splattered onto the public record an array of allegations about Mr. Clinton's involvement with other women — apparently unrestrained by Judge Susan Webber Wright of U.S. District Court and despite the consensus among legal experts that little, if any, of the evidence stands any chance of being admitted at a trial.

A particularly sensational new accusation came Saturday, when the Jones lawyers included in a filing an unsubstantiated, third-party allegation that Mr. Clinton had raped a woman 20 years ago.

For its part, the Clinton team failed to turn over letters from a former White House aide, Kathleen Willey, that were requested by the Jones lawyers in the discovery process, even though it managed to release to the media 15 letters from Mrs. Willey the morning after she alleged on "60 Minutes" that the president had groped her near the Oval Office.

The Clinton team's explanation — that Mrs. Jones's lawyers did not get the documents because they should have asked for them from the White House rather than from Mr. Clinton personally — gives new meaning to the word legalistic. Some experts said it could be a violation of the rules that govern how documents are supposed to be provided in civil cases.

"There's enough fault here to go around, and this is a case in which the judge is partly responsible," said a law professor at George Washington University, Stephen Saltzburg. "The judge has permitted the lawyers to make her court look silly."

Mrs. Jones's request to Mr. Clinton last

December asked for "all documents concerning Kathleen Willey," including telephone logs or other communications, and directed him to turn over "not only the documents and things in your immediate possession, but also those over which you have custody or control." Mr. Clinton's lawyers objected, saying the request was intended to embarrass the president, but added that even so, "President Clinton has no documents responsive to this request."

A federal judge would never tolerate that kind of argument, said Stephen Gillers, a New York University legal ethics expert. "The documents were obviously within the power of the president to release, and notwithstanding that he's being sued in his personal capacity, he has control over them and could have produced them."

Debra Katz, a lawyer who handles sexual harassment cases on the side of workers, said: "I think it's absolutely improper. The question was asked in such a way that these documents clearly should have been produced. The Clinton folks

were engaged in game-playing in not turning it over and there's no excuse for it."

But some other lawyers noted that the Jones team was not harmed by Mr. Clinton's failure to produce the documents because they were not damaging to the president.

Mark Dichter, a Philadelphia management lawyer, said: "Is it a big deal? Probably not. They are letters which, if anything, are favorable to them, so they'd want to produce them."

Legal experts said the Jones lawyers went overboard in putting some of the new allegations against Mr. Clinton into the public record. That is because much of the evidence about his alleged relations with other women is unlikely to be admitted in a trial since it involves purportedly consensual activity, took place long before or after his 1991 encounter with Mrs. Jones, or both.

Referring to the inclusion of the rape allegation, Ms. Katz said: "It's appalling and the judge should be calling those lawyers in and seriously reining them in. It is completely in-

appropriate to put forward allegations that had been denied, that are unsworn." She added: "This is obviously another attempt to put in the headlines allegations that this president is a predatory, out-of-control fiend. This is not reasonably related to the allegations that Jones has to prove in her case."

Mr. Dichter said it was "hard" to see how that was "done for any reason other than trying to taint and smear him."

The Jones lawyers struggled with the issue themselves. "It was a close call internally as to whether we ought to file it," said one of Mrs. Jones's lawyers, T. Wesley Holmes.

But in the end, he said, they decided the allegation was relevant to their argument that Mr. Clinton has engaged in a "vast enterprise" to suppress evidence because they believed the purported victim was frightened into silence.

"There's another example of where there's allegedly evidence we ought to be able to get that we haven't been able to because of intimidation," Mr. Holmes said.

Clinton Asks For Sanctions Against Jones's Legal Team

By Francis X. Clines
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has moved for contempt sanctions against Paula Jones's legal team, saying that it released a flood of false and salacious accusations over the weekend that violated the court's guidelines and tainted potential jurors.

Responding to the accusations by lawyers for Mrs. Jones, Robert Bennett, the president's lawyer, denied there was any obligation on the part of the president to release official White House documents sought under a personal subpoena. The documents in question related to Kathleen Willey, a former White House volunteer and potential witness in Mrs. Jones's sexual-harassment lawsuit who has accused the president of groping her in the White House.

"The president responded fully to all subpoenas directed to him personally," Mr. Bennett insisted in response to the complaint filed Saturday by the Jones lawyers. Those lawyers maintained that the subpoenaed Willey documents, which were denied to them in January, had been made public by the White House to undercut Mrs. Willey within hours of her interview in March on CBS's "60 Minutes" program.

In seeking contempt sanctions, Mr. Bennett accused the Jones law firm — Rader, Campbell, Fisher & Pyke of Dallas — of violating court disclosure strictures by releasing unsworn and unsigned hearsay accusations that the president sexually assaulted a woman two decades ago.

Ex-Miss America Admits Tryst

The Daily News reported Tuesday that a former Miss America whose testimony has been sought by lawyers in the lawsuit says she had sex with Mr. Clinton when he was Arkansas governor but that it was consensual. Reuters reported that it was consensual.

The newspaper quoted an actress, Elizabeth Ward Gracen, as saying she had come forward to deny allegations by a former friend that Mr. Clinton forced her into sex in the back of a limousine in 1982.

Mrs. Gracen, 37, who plays a role in the TV series "Highlander," previously denied any sexual liaison with Mr. Clinton, the Daily News said.

"The lies gain credibility every day that I don't address them," Ms. Gracen was quoted as saying in the newspaper. "I had to put a stop to it. It's become a three-ring circus. This is something I don't want to talk about at all. It's no one's business at all."

Mrs. Gracen said she met Mr. Clinton at an apartment in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1983. They had previously met socially. They were both married, and it was the year after Ms. Gracen's reign as Miss America.



A suspected rebel, Maximo Perez, after being arrested in Florencia, Colombia. He is accused of being a leader of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces. A faction of that group has seized four Americans and an Italian.

Search Continues for Colombia Hostages

BOGOTA — The Colombian Army has scaled back military operations as aid agencies search a mountainous region east of Bogota for guerrillas who took four Americans and an Italian hostage more than a week ago.

A commander for the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, which is holding the hostages, threatened over the weekend to kill the Americans if they proved to be undercover U.S. intelligence agents.

But a rebel spokesman played down that threat Monday, saying any decision about the fate of the five hostages would be made by the group's national leadership.

The U.S. Embassy has declined to confirm the names of the American hostages. The U.S. State Department has said all four were on a bird-watching trip when they were seized at a highway roadblock 50 kilometers (35 miles) east of Bogota on March 23. The Italian,

Vito Candela, lives in Colombia and owns a well-known Bogota restaurant. "If they are found to have nothing to do with the war, then the problem would be resolved very quickly and in the best manner," Marco Leon Calarca, the rebel group's spokesman, said in Mexico City, where he lives.

If they were found to be agents, he added, the situation would "get more complicated" and the group's leadership would have to decide what to do.

Buckled Up, From Takeoff to Landing

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The decision by American Airlines and United Airlines this week to require passengers to keep their seat belts buckled whenever they are seated will give the seat belt sign new meaning.

Although final details are still to be worked out, passengers would be required to be seated and buckled in when the seat belt sign is illuminated; when the sign is not lit, they could get up, stand in the aisles or go to the lavatory. But if they are seated, they would have to have their belts buckled.

The requirement is intended to reduce injuries from turbulence, the pockets of unstable air that buffet airplanes, often without warning.

"We're doing this because we've studied our turbulence incidence," said

John Hotard, a spokesman for American Airlines. "The overwhelming majority of passengers who are hurt in those instances are not wearing their seat belts. The plane goes up, and they hit their head, back or shoulders and are injured."

One problem is how to enforce the policy. The cabin crew can enforce federal rules, and passengers who disobey can be arrested when the plane lands. But their authority to enforce company policy is less clear.

"You're always going to have some lawyer or somebody who says, 'You cannot tell me what to do,'" Mr. Hotard said. "We will ask the person to buckle their seat belt, but we are not going to push it."

American was the first to announce the requirement and said it was still

working out the details, including when the policy would take effect and how to persuade passengers to comply. United Airlines said late Monday it also would adopt a seat belt requirement, though it did not specify a date. Another major U.S. carrier, Delta Air Lines, said it would wait to see if the Federal Aviation Administration changed its rules.

In a statement, the aviation agency administrator, Jane Garvey, congratulated American "for taking this positive safety step" and encouraged other airlines to consider following suit.

About half a dozen times a year, passengers on American Airlines planes are hurt badly enough to require medical attention, Mr. Hotard said. In December, one passenger was killed when a United Airlines flight from Tokyo to Honolulu hit turbulence. (NYT, AP)

Pentagon Revises Report Playing Down Cuban Military Threat

By Dana Priest
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — A Defense Department assessment has found that the Cuban military does not pose a national security threat to the United States, but the report's release has been delayed while officials consider revisions that might bring it in line with tough U.S. policies concerning the country, according to national security officials.

The classified report was scheduled to be released Tuesday to members of Congress who requested it last year. But Defense Secretary William Cohen said he wanted to read the report before it was distributed, and other administration and defense officials met Monday in an effort to harden the language, to "make it more presentable," a defense official said.

In part, the report concludes that the Cuban armed forces have been significantly diminished, that its military is

geared toward defending Cuba rather than making offensive moves and that severe shortages of fuel and spare parts have reduced its Soviet-built MiG jet-fighter force to two squadrons, according to individuals who have seen or been briefed on the assessment.

A senior official at the National Security Council explained the revisions under consideration as "making sure that the administration was speaking with one voice" on Cuba. "It gets down to

terminology and phraseology," he said. Officials said Monday that among areas of the report that were considered for tougher language were sections dealing with Cuba's capacity to produce biological weapons. While administration officials do not allege that Cuba has such weapons, "You can't say there's no capability," a defense official said.

High Court Upholds a Ban On Lie Detectors in Trials

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld a ban on the use of the results of lie-detector tests in military courts, saying the ban did not violate the constitutional rights of defendants.

"There is simply no consensus that polygraph evidence is reliable," the court said as it ruled, 8 to 1, in the case of a California airman who wanted to tell a court-martial jury that he passed a lie-detector test.

The decision probably also will have an impact on civilian courts.

Without rejecting outright the argument that defendants may have a constitutional right to have lie-detector evidence admitted at trial, the justices apparently are willing to allow many state and federal courts to continue banning such evidence.

Courts "may reasonably reach differing conclusions as to whether polygraph evidence should be admitted," Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the Supreme Court.

"To this day, the scientific community remains extremely polarized about the reliability of polygraph techniques," Justice Thomas wrote. "There is simply no way to know in a particular case whether a polygraph examiner's conclusion is accurate."

The military ban on use of such evidence "does not unconstitutionally abridge the right to present a defense," he said.

The ruling reverses a military appeals court's decision that said an airman should not have been automatically

barred from introducing lie-detector results during his court-martial on charges of using drugs and writing bad checks.

A rule signed by President George Bush in 1991 forbade any reference to lie-detector tests in military criminal trials.

But the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces said that rule violated Edward Scheffer's right under the Constitution's Sixth Amendment to present relevant evidence in his defense. The appeals court said Mr. Scheffer should be given a chance to convince a judge that the test results should be allowed.

Justice Department lawyers argued to the Supreme Court that polygraph tests were unreliable and that people could defeat them through techniques such as biting their tongue when certain questions were asked.

But Mr. Scheffer's lawyer questioned why the military conducted almost 35,000 lie-detector tests in 1992 if it considered the tests unreliable.

Mr. Scheffer was stationed at March Air Force Base in California in 1992, when he was charged with writing bad checks, using methamphetamine and being absent without leave.

A lie-detector test indicated he answered truthfully when he denied taking drugs, but a urine test was positive for the drug. Mr. Scheffer was not allowed to use the results of the lie-detector test in his defense at trial.

Justice John Paul Stevens dissented from the ruling, saying it "rests on a serious undervaluation of the importance of the citizen's constitutional right to present a defense to a criminal charge."

POLITICAL NOTES

Plebiscites Remain Popular With Voters

LOS ANGELES — Twenty years ago this June, angry California voters unleashed the revolution of Proposition 13, the ballot initiative that capped local property tax rates, cutting \$5 billion in taxes statewide — a feat the state's politicians had contended was impossible.

The revolutionaries' weapon was a trusty tool of the Progressive Era that had fallen into disuse: the citizen initiative.

The success of Proposition 13 began a new era. The number of propositions appearing on the California ballot doubled in the next decade and has risen steadily since.

In the June primary, California voters will face five new proposals, on issues, including ending bilingual education in the public schools and requiring labor unions to get their dues for political activities. On the November ballot, there will be perhaps 10 more proposals.

From Alaska to Florida, petitions are being circulated to place before voters proposals to cut taxes and to limit political terms, to cap elementary school class sizes, to allow the use of marijuana and to bar the use of "body-gripping" animal traps.

Politicians of both parties in California agree that the situation is out of hand, but the public remains overwhelmingly in favor of the process, but admitting that more important were his own failures: "I am astonished at how badly I underestimated the size and intensity of the problems that would confront me as speaker." (AP)

his successful 1994 re-election campaign, and who is sponsoring two more initiatives this year and lending his support to others.

"And like the First Amendment," Mr. Wilson said, "it's often honored when it's being abused." (NYT)

Budget Fight Looms

WASHINGTON — The White House's top budget official has warned congressional Republicans that they were heading for confrontation on several fronts.

Both the Senate's proposed budget and the House's pending \$217 billion transportation bill could cause legislative gridlock, argued Franklin Raines, director of the Office of Management and Budget. He said both pieces of legislation as drafted may leave Congress with too little money to finance priorities of the Democrats or the Republicans.

"It's a hazardous path we're on, with very few days that the Congress will be here to resolve it," Mr. Raines said.

He also came out against the notion of radical changes in Social Security, including privatization options being discussed by Republicans. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

Newt Gingrich, writing in the book "Lessons Learned the Hard Way," that liberals and the news media worked to undermine his leadership but admitting that more important were his own failures: "I am astonished at how badly I underestimated the size and intensity of the problems that would confront me as speaker." (AP)

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Away From Politics

Center brake lights on cars prevent at least 92,000 crashes and 58,000 injuries annually, according to a study released by the federal government's highway safety agency. The third brake light, often mounted at the bottom center of the back windshield, has been required on cars since the 1986 model year and on light trucks since 1994. (AP)

Florida executed the killer of a convenience store clerk in the fourth execution in the state's electric chair in nine days. Daniel Remeta had been convicted of murdering the clerk, Mehrie Reeder, during a 1985 robbery that netted \$50. He was linked to four other slayings during a crime spree across Florida, Texas, Kansas and Arkansas. (Reuters)

An engine failed and caught fire on a chartered jet, forcing the pilot to abort takeoff

from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Seventeen people suffered minor injuries during evacuation from the Royal Airlines flight, which had been bound for Toronto. (AP)

A 13-year-old girl committed suicide in a bathroom at a school in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Students said the seventh-grader, who shot herself, was new to Grey College Middle School and had mentioned problems at home. (AP)

Women have been appointed for the first time to a top leadership body of the reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Church delegates in Missouri named Linda Booth and Gail Mengel to the Council of 12 Apostles, which is second only to the three-member First Presidency in the church hierarchy. (AP)

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Defectors Surrender A Temple

Cambodian Flag Flies Over Khmer Rouge Spot

Reuters
KHAO PRAVIHARN, Thailand — The Cambodian flag fluttered over the ancient Preah Vihear temple Tuesday for the first time in years after Khmer Rouge guerrillas defected to the government side.

The Thai commander of forces based on the border here opposite the ruins said the guerrillas had relinquished control of the temple Monday.

The Khmer Rouge on the temple mountain defected and handed the temple over to government troops late on Monday, said the commander, Colonel Chhann Huiyong.

From the Thai base here, dozens of people could be seen strolling around the ruins while the Cambodian flag, with its image of the Angkor Wat temple, flew overhead.

The Khmer Rouge were hit by fresh mutinies last week that could spell the end of the guerrilla army held responsible for more than a million deaths during its 1975-78 rule. Thai military officials and analysts said.

The Cambodian government said Thursday that the northwest town of Anlong Veng, the guerrillas' last stronghold, had been taken over by rebel defectors. The group's leaders and former chief, Pol Pot, had taken refuge in nearby mountains, it said.

There have been clashes between the defectors and their former comrades, forcing thousands of civilians to flee, while other Khmer Rouge units have followed their comrades over to government ranks.

"The Khmer Rouge have made a mass defection and either lost or handed over all of their footholds to the Hun Sen army," said a Cambodian civilian official on the border, referring to the government of Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The 800-year-old Preah Vihear temple, about 60 kilometers (40 miles) east of Anlong Veng, sits on the edge of the Dongrek escarpment overlooking the Cambodian plain. The subject of a territorial dispute between Cambodia and Thailand in the 1950s and early 1960s, the temple had been occupied by Khmer Rouge guerrillas since the early 1990s.

A Khmer Rouge spokesman said by telephone that the group's military commander, Ta Mok, its political leader, Khieu Samphan, and other hard-line faction leaders from Anlong Veng had led about 5,000 followers to high ground near the Thai border.

"The fighters and leaders are about five to six kilometers from the Thai border, while the civilians are poised to cross into Thailand," the official said.

He declined to reveal the whereabouts of Pol Pot, who was purged by his comrades last year and sentenced to life under house arrest after a falling-out among the group's leaders.

Thai villagers said about 5,000 Khmer Rouge followers from Anlong Veng had already taken refuge in Thailand. But the Thai Army has blocked access to the area and said the Khmer Rouge were still in Cambodia.



Cambodians seeking refuge in Sisaket, Thailand, on Tuesday from fighting between Khmer Rouge loyalists and mutineers. Guerrilla defectors handed over an ancient temple to the Phnom Penh government Monday.

TV Tokyo Has a New, Safer Version of a Cartoon That Caused Fits

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A popular cartoon that would first broadcast a special program detailing an investigation into why the Dec. 6 episode touched off symptoms ranging from nausea to fainting in at least 700 viewers.

The reactions are believed to have been caused by the use of colorful flashing lights to depict an explosion. Mr. Uramoto said the new "Pocket Monsters" episodes had been made

under stricter guidelines limiting the use of potentially dangerous visuals, including flashing lights.

"Pocket Monsters," which is based on a video game made by Nintendo Co., was one of the most popular children's shows in Japan and features a slew of little creatures that can transform themselves. An estimated 12 million people were watching the episode that made so many viewers ill.

BRIEFLY

Bombs Kill 2 in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan — Bombs exploded at an ice cream parlor and a shopping mall here Tuesday, killing two people and injuring 24, the police said.

No one claimed responsibility for the two bombs, the latest in a series of attacks that have rocked Karachi, Pakistan's financial center.

The first bomb exploded in the ice cream shop soon after it opened, killing one person, injuring 12 and destroying the shop. The police said the explosion had been caused by a timed device.

Twenty minutes later, a second explosion ripped through a shopping mall, killing one person and injuring 12. The police said that bomb had been planted under a vendor's cart outside. Many shops were damaged, but casualties were limited because most of the businesses had not yet opened.

Annan Hails China Rights Step

BEIJING — The UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, said Tuesday he was pleased at Beijing's recent invitation to receive the top United Nations human-rights official.

Earlier in the day, Mary Robinson, the UN high commissioner for human rights, said she planned to visit China in September.

Mr. Annan, touring the five countries that are permanent members of the UN Security Council, said after talks with Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen that he welcomed

China's pledge to sign UN pacts enshrining political and social rights.

"I am also particularly encouraged that they have invited Mrs. Robinson to visit," Mr. Annan said. (Reuters)

Indonesian Rebels Name Leader

JAKARTA — Guerrillas fighting Indonesia's rule in East Timor have named a successor to their leader, Nino Konis Santana, who died in an accidental fall, resistance sources said Tuesday.

The East Timor International Support Center, which is based in Darwin, Australia, said it had received a statement from the armed resistance movement Falintil saying its leadership had been taken over by Mr. Santana's chief of staff, Taur Matan Ruak. (Reuters)

Dhaka Moves to Protect Women

DHAKA — The cabinet has approved the death penalty for crimes against women including trafficking, rape and murder, Bangladesh legal officials said Tuesday.

They said Parliament was expected to pass the measure into law in a few days.

Currently, the maximum punishment for such crimes is 10 years in prison. The police said the death penalty was being introduced following a spate in trafficking and rape, in which the victims included girls as young as 6. Three women were raped in Dhaka on Monday when the cabinet was discussing the death penalty, the police said. (Reuters)

Malaysian Minister Sees A Plot by Western Media

'Political Agenda' Suspected in Reports on Crisis

By Thomas Fuller
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — Echoing criticism heard frequently in Southeast Asia, Malaysia's information minister said Tuesday that the foreign media had interfered in the internal affairs of countries in the region and that foreign news organizations had a "political agenda."

The minister, Mohamed Rahmat, charged at a gathering of international publishers here that Western media coverage had not been sensitive to Asian cultures and was "politically motivated with the purpose of eroding the confidence the people as well as foreign investors have in these economies."

Terms like economic turmoil, economic meltdown, economic uncertainty and economic chaos were "loosely" used to describe events in recent months, Mr. Rahmat said. "I suppose this trend of coverage has some kind of political agenda," he added.

Analysts said the minister's comments reflected the frustration that officials in Malaysia and elsewhere in Southeast Asia have about the image of their countries following the economic crisis that began last year.

"We had the haze, we had the economic crisis, then we had the refugees and now we have a water shortage," Abdul Razak Abdullah Baginda, executive director of the Malaysian Strategic Research Center, said in an interview. "Eight months ago we were really up there on the pedestal but now we've fallen. Malaysia's pride has been hurt and the last thing you want is someone rubbing it in."

Domestic newspapers and media outlets in Malaysia are closely monitored by the government, and editors and reporters say they are often given instructions by officials on what stories to run or what information they may use in their articles.

Last Thursday, reports broadcast in Asia by cable television of riots at a detention center were blacked out in Malaysia. At least nine persons died in the violence.

Mr. Rahmat questioned whether Asian countries wanted the type of journalism that he said had emerged in the West, where even the "respected" media "are following their tabloid cousins in rapid descent into the gutter as they seek to build circulation and reap profits for their shareholders."

"Is this what we want in Asia?" Mr. Rahmat asked. "Many of our nations in this region are relative newcomers to the ways of democracy. In fact, we are still in the process of fashioning a democratic system that fits our cultural, ethical and moral sensitivities."

In contrast to the Western press, "the media in Malaysia have always put the interest of the nation at heart," Mr. Rahmat said at a conference of the Asian Newspaper Publishers Convention and Exposition and the German-based International Association for Newspapers and Media Technology.

Criticism of the international media's recent coverage of the region's economic crisis has often centered on the idea of cultural sensitivity.

Chandra Muzaffar, professor of political science at the University of Malaya, gives the example of a well-publicized

photograph taken earlier this year of President Suharto of Indonesia signing an agreement as the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus, stood nearby with arms crossed.

"I don't think Camdessus meant to degrade the man," Mr. Chandra said. "But that's the way it came across. One has to be conscious of the cultural terrain. A lot of people felt the Indonesian nation was being humiliated."

Mr. Chandra said that the Western media tended to see the region in homogeneous terms. "One also gets the impression that some of these newspapers tend to be a little gleeful when they report on the economic crisis," he said.

Not all analysts in Malaysia agree. In a globalized world, countries must play by international rules, said the director of a research center who wished to remain anonymous.

"We should leave this archaic, developing world mentality behind," he added. "If you want to be a developed country you have to learn to cope with the media."

Malaysia Continues To Bar UN Officials At Illegals' Camps

GENEVA — The United Nations refugee agency said Tuesday that it was still seeking access to camps in Malaysia where illegal immigrants from Indonesia are being held but had not won approval.

Judith Kumin, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said that Malaysian authorities had taken note of repeated requests from the commissioner, Sadako Ogata, for her staff to be allowed into the camps.

"But the request has so far not been granted," she said, adding that contacts were continuing.

On Monday, 14 Indonesians from among more than 100 who fled from the Lenggeng detention center during a deportation operation last Thursday rammed a truck into the refugee agency compound in Kuala Lumpur. Twelve of the 14 asked for protection; the two others have Malaysian residence permits.

Ms. Kumin said the agency had asked Malaysian authorities not to intervene.

A militant group from the Indonesian province of Aceh on Sumatra, where a separatist revolt peaked in the early 1990s, says the 14 are from there and fear persecution if they are repatriated.

Malaysia said Tuesday that it considered the Indonesians illegal immigrants who are to be deported.

"Our position is very clear," said the Foreign Ministry undersecretary for Southeast Asia and South Pacific, Mohd Arshad. "We don't recognize the Acehese as having any grounds for seeking political asylum."

He said that Malaysia would allow the UN refugee agency time to examine the cases of the Indonesian immigrants, but that there had been no change in the policy of barring access to detention camps where illegal immigrants are held.

THE INTERMARKET

GENERAL

Personals

MAY THE SACRED HEART of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. Saint Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Saint Joseph, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Saint Michael, warrior of the angels, pray for us. Saint Raphael, healer of the sick, pray for us. Saint Gabriel, messenger of the Lord, pray for us. Saint Peter, key of the Kingdom, pray for us. Saint Paul, apostle of the Gentiles, pray for us. Saint John, disciple of love, pray for us. Saint Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. Amen. M.B.

MAY THE SACRED HEART of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. Saint Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. Saint Joseph, helper of the hopeless, pray for us. Saint Michael, warrior of the angels, pray for us. Saint Raphael, healer of the sick, pray for us. Saint Gabriel, messenger of the Lord, pray for us. Saint Peter, key of the Kingdom, pray for us. Saint Paul, apostle of the Gentiles, pray for us. Saint John, disciple of love, pray for us. Saint Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. Amen. M.B.

SACRED HEART of JESUS and Saint Jude, thanks for prayers answered. V.R.

THANK YOU SACRED HEART of Jesus for prayers answered. H.B.

Announcements

Herald Tribune

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Russia Faces Identity Crisis as It Gropes for a 'National Idea'

By Michael R. Gordon
New York Times Service

Since Collapse of Soviet Union, Many Ask: 'How Will It All End?'

MOSCOW — Russia is in search of a "national idea" that can define its essence and inspire its citizens. But so far the struggle for a post-Soviet identity has been a grandiose exercise in conflict and confusion.

Russia's new national anthem has no words because nobody can agree on what it should say. Politicians are still squabbling over its tricolor flag. A government commission set up last summer to develop a "national idea" came up empty-handed.

The country's unsettled mood is best expressed by a series of provocative questions that mysteriously began appearing last year on billboards and trolley

buses: "What's going on?" "How much more can we take?" and, especially unnerving, "How will it all end?"

It turned out the questions were advertisements for a magazine promotion, but by then they had already led to a nationwide debate and been denounced by irate politicians, who apparently feared they were hitting too close to the mark.

Disputes over the nature of the Russian soul have dominated Russian life for centuries.

But the question of Russia's national purpose has acquired a fresh urgency as the nation struggles to redefine itself after the collapse of the Soviet empire, which provided so much of its

identity and mission for this century.

The Yeltsin government would like to have a concept, slogan or sound bite to mobilize the public and counter the Communists, who, while a minority, at least have an ideology to attract their faithful.

But if the Kremlin has a compelling vision of what lies at the end of Russia's long, hard road from socialism, it has not convinced ordinary Russians.

The task has proved so elusive that a commission President Boris Yeltsin created last year to produce the "national idea" soon became a national joke. Georgi Satarov, the panel's chairman and a Yeltsin aide, sought to justify the commission's failure to articulate an

idea by echoing the new-age mantra that the journey is the destination. As Mr. Satarov put it in August: "It is not just the national idea which is important, but also the process of finding it."

This is not to say that Russia is without a rough sense of direction. Few expect Russia to go back to the old Soviet days of a planned economy, repression and a one-party Communist state.

The Russian Orthodox Church has re-emerged as a power in Russian society and a semi-official organization. Nationalism and Slavic pride are important factors in the nation's political life. But none of this seems to add up to a vision for the new Russian state. Religion and eth-

nicity are not a sufficient foundation because Russia has 20 ethnic republics dominated by Tatars, Muslims and others.

Nationalism only goes so far. Russia used to find glory in ruling a vast empire and dominating its neighbors. But Russian imperialism is not only politically incorrect, it is beyond the means of the financially troubled state.

And the Yeltsin government's pro-capitalist economic views are too murky to serve as a rallying cry.

Boris Nemtsov, Mr. Yeltsin's reform-minded deputy, has called for a crusade to build a "people's capitalism" and break the grip of the small clique of bankers and financiers on the Russian economy. For a while, pundits speculated that this crusade might become the long-sought national idea.

But Mr. Yeltsin has reshuffled personnel and policies so much — like his abrupt dismissal of the cabinet last week — that nobody is quite sure whether he is determined to challenge the oligarchy or protect it. And since everyone from reformers to corrupt businessmen claim they are building "capitalism," the term has almost lost its meaning.

Ordinary Russians do not understand what it means," said Tatiana Tolstaya, one of Russia's most notable contemporary writers. "What they see are the rich seizing power. They have a fatalistic approach and hate everyone in power."

The lack of a unifying vision and the decentralization of power toward Russia's far-flung regions have eroded any sense of common identity.

According to a recent study by Jerry Hough of Duke University, the number of young ethnic Russians who think of Russia as their motherland is declining. A growing, though still not dominant, group now defines a province or local region as its homeland.

In the absence of a clear national vision, much of the struggle over Russia's purpose has been fought over heraldry, banners and monuments.

According to the Russian Constitution, the nation's anthem, symbol and flag must be approved by the Parliament. But the Communists who dominate the Parliament do not want Russia's white, blue and red flag.

They do not want the new anthem with its music by Glinka. And they do not want the two-headed eagle, which hails from Russia's prerevolutionary past. They want the old Soviet anthem, the red flag and the hammer and sickle.

Even though the symbols of the new Russian state have never received the legislature's blessing, the Yeltsin government uses them anyway, as do many Russians.

Not that they do not require some instruction. When Moscow celebrated its 850th anniversary last September, the police went around rehanging some of the Russian flags that bedecked the city. Some Muscovites, unaware that the white stripe is supposed to be at the top, had hung the flag upside down.

Even the authorities have made gross mistakes. When the Central Bank first printed the 500,000-ruble note depicting the ancient Solovetsky monastery on an island in the northern White Sea, it showed the monastery without crosses and cupolas, as it was during Soviet times when it served as one of Stalin's most notorious prisons. Instead of celebrating religion, Russia's most important financial institution inadvertently commemorated the Gulag.

Since nobody can agree on what the new symbols should be, it is hardly surprising that they cannot agree on what to do with the old ones.

Lenin's embalmed body remains on display in Red Square because Russians cannot decide whether the founder of the Soviet state should be removed from his place of honor and buried. Russians did, however, rebuff a proposal by the grandson of one of the former Communist leaders to take Lenin's corpse on a world tour and use it to make a quick buck.

Virtually every city and town has a statue of Lenin. It has been easier to leave them in place than to fight over whether they should be taken down.

And when Soviet symbols have been removed, the authorities have sometimes been loath to destroy them. One of the most vivid images of the fall of the Soviet state came when a giant crane rumbled to the entrance of the KGB headquarters and hauled away the statue of Felix Dzerzhinsky, the first head of the Soviet secret police. That statue, however, was not destroyed. It was moved to a less conspicuous location behind the Central House

Romania Seeking New Prime Minister

BUCHAREST — Romania was searching for a new prime minister Tuesday after Victor Ciortea resigned to end a prolonged political crisis.

Commentators welcomed Mr. Ciortea's announcement Monday that he would quit to resolve three months of turmoil in his governing coalition over how to tackle Bucharest's economic woes.

"Honest but lacking experience, Ciortea lacked the strength to take on his political backers when they steered him down the wrong path," said the popular daily newspaper Evenimentul Zilei.

President Emil Constantinescu is expected to name a new prime minister Thursday after consultations with party leaders. He has named Interior Minister Gavril Dejeu as interim prime minister. (APF)

Early Armenia Vote Favors Kocharyan

YEREVAN, Armenia — Prime Minister Robert Kocharyan appeared to be far ahead of his former Communist opponent in Armenia's presidential elections, according to returns Tuesday.

With 28 percent of the ballots counted, Mr. Kocharyan had 62 percent of the vote and Karen Demirchyan had 38 percent, the Central Election Commission announced.

Turnout in Monday's runoff vote was about 50 percent, compared with 65 percent in the first round earlier this month, said the election commission's chairman, Khachatour Bezhirjan.

Mr. Kocharyan, 43, has been in power for a year. He led the independence movement in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mostly ethnic Armenian enclave inside neighboring Azerbaijan, in 1988, and then served as president of the rebel region before becoming Armenia's prime minister last year. (AP)

Communists Lead In Ukraine Election

KIEV — Partial results Tuesday from Ukraine's parliamentary election confirmed a strong showing by the Communists, who have tapped into the country's economic discontent to win more than a quarter of the votes.

With more than half the vote counted, two other anti-government parties were also looking strong, while three or four more moderate groups also appeared likely to win seats in Parliament.

The preliminary results pointed to a Parliament led, but not controlled, by hard-liners and suggested that the standoff between President Leonid Kuchma and the legislature was likely to continue.

There are 450 seats to be filled in Parliament.

With ballots counted from 123 of Ukraine's 225 electoral districts, the Communist Party received 25.8 percent of the party vote, the Central Election Commission said. (AP)

of Artists near Gorky Park in Moscow. Undeterred by the politicians' failure to define a national vision, Russian newspapers have jumped into the fray.

Last year, Rossiiskaya Gazeta, a government-owned newspaper, awarded a prize to an official from Vologda, a town north of Moscow, for his proposal. He received 5 million rubles — about \$830 — for recommending that the national idea be found in "the concern for the Fatherland" and the rejection of the "money-oriented mentality of the West."

Nezavisimaya Gazeta, a paper owned by Boris Berezovsky, an influential tycoon, was more cynical and closer to the hearts of many Russians.

Its editor, Vitali Tretyakov, wrote: "For some it is 'Get rich!' For others, 'Survive!' For many the two slogans are united — 'Get rich to survive!'"



Sergei Kiriyenko in Moscow on Tuesday after meeting with Communists in the Parliament. The Communists, who dominate Parliament are resisting a vote on Mr. Kiriyenko's nomination as prime minister.

was not ashamed of his Komsomol years and that he admired some of the utopian ideals of communism, although "it was only later that I understood it is impossible to implement them."

Today, Mr. Kiriyenko said, he would like to dump the tired rhetoric of the past.

"We should stop using such categories as increased plan or greater volume of output," he said. "Let us speak about the amount of profit that we made as a measure of how a company is working."

"I love money," he added, "extremely professionally."

HUSTLE: Making Money With Energy

Continued from Page 1

to Mr. Gorbachev during the early years of perestroika, or restructuring. Mr. Kiriyenko arrived at the Moscow school within weeks of the failed coup against Mr. Gorbachev that summer and just months before the Soviet collapse.

At the academy, Mr. Kiriyenko, who was the youngest in his class, was told that only the most creative businessmen would survive. Oleg Protsenko, a professor who was then director of the management program, recalled, "We told students not to wait for any solution from the top, but to find an original solution."

Banking was one of the first sectors to be liberalized, and Mr. Kiriyenko wrote a monograph on how Russian banks could navigate the rough waters of the transition to a market economy. Hundreds of banks were throwing open their doors, many with dubious balance sheets.

In his tract, finished in 1993, Mr. Kiriyenko displayed a grasp of the no-holds-barred character of the nascent Russian market economy. He wrote that the main job for commercial banks in Russia was to build up capital using "any possible ways and methods." He wrote that banks would have to be able to transfer resources to "offshore zones," which they did. He also foresaw that banking and politics were inexorably intertwined. "The most important task of commercial banks," he wrote, "is lobbying at all the levels of power."

Separately, Mr. Kiriyenko had taken another path characteristic of the new generation of Russian capitalists — the Komsomol, the youth league that long had been a training ground for the Communist Party. Mr. Kiriyenko was a Komsomol leader at the Krasnoye Sormovo shipyard in Gorky, a big submarine-building base. In the Gorbachev years, the Komsomol was an invaluable passage to the world of business.

"Komsomol became a beehive of activity," said Steven Solnick, a professor at Columbia University and author of "Stealing the State," a book chronicling

the demise of the Komsomol. "It served as a business school for the late 1980s generation of top bankers and financiers."

"Under Gorbachev, there were two economies, a controlled and a liberalized economy," he continued. "Prices were state-set in one part, and not in the other. If you as a smart Soviet citizen could figure out how to move goods, money or services from the controlled sector to the liberalized sector, where you could sell it expensive, you cleaned up on the profits."

In politics, Mr. Kiriyenko was an ally of Boris Nemtsov, the young governor of the Nizhni Novgorod region who turned it into an early incubator for market reforms. After graduating from the Moscow academy, Mr. Kiriyenko and others founded Bank Garantiya, which was closely tied to federal and local pension funds. The bank's emphasis was helping the pension funds cope at a time when nonpayments were growing and chaos gripped the economy.

Mr. Kiriyenko said in a

1996 interview.

For example, he said, Russia increasingly was dominated by barter trade, in which companies exchanged goods instead of money, such as natural gas for macaroni. But that sort of exchange is impossible for pension funds, he said.

So the bank's experts turned to the technique called arbitrage. For example, they could transform one company's oil surplus into pension benefits. "A pension fund can't get oil and sell it," he said. "We find partners to buy the oil, find a way to refine the oil, and sell it, sometimes abroad."

Mr. Kiriyenko went on to become head of an oil company, and came to Moscow last May to be deputy energy minister under his old friend Mr. Nemtsov, who was first deputy prime minister. Last week, Mr. Yeltsin installed Mr. Kiriyenko as acting prime minister after abruptly firing Mr. Chernomyrdin.

Moscow financiers, politicians and businessmen are puzzling over what kind of prime minister Mr. Kiriyenko will be if confirmed. He said last week he

A generation of ambitious middlemen profited from perestroika.

For Vichy Street, Turn Far Right

Agence France-Presse

MONTPELLIER, France — To protest political alliances with the far right, councillors in this southern city have decided to name a street the Rue de Vichy after the World War II government that collaborated with the Nazis.

The city council voted Monday night to give the controversial name to a new street that runs in front of the regional assembly, which is headed by a politician who won the job because of the support of the extremist National Front.

The assembly leader is Jacques Blanc of the center-right Union for French Democracy. He is one of five conservatives who this month defied party orders and made deals with the National Front, triggering a countrywide furor.

The city council is led by Mr. Blanc's rival for the regional presidency, Georges Fréchet, a Socialist.

Russia Is Said to Rule Out Veto Of UN Sanctions on Yugoslavia

Agence France-Presse

MOSCOW — Russia will not veto a UN security council resolution on the imposition of sanctions against Yugoslavia over its role in Kosovo, the Interfax press agency cited Foreign Ministry sources as saying Tuesday.

The Security Council was expected to vote Tuesday or Wednesday on a draft resolution drawn up by Britain imposing an arms embargo against Yugoslavia in response to repression of the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo Province.

On Monday, the Yugoslav Parliament appealed to a visiting Russian delegation for Moscow to veto the resolution.

Interfax reported that Russia, a traditional ally of its fellow Orthodox Slavs, had asked for "some time" to give its verdict on the draft resolution.

According to U.S. officials, Russian objections to the first draft have caused the resolution to be watered down. It now is expected to ban imports of weapons to Yugoslavia but not to impose a ban on equipment used for internal repression.

In the last month, more than 80 people have been killed in a security crackdown on several ethnic-Albanian villages in Kosovo that Belgrade says were bases of an armed separatist group calling itself the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The region remains tense and unstable.

The Yugoslav authorities and the ethnic Albanians are being asked to open talks on the future status of the province, which had its autonomy removed in 1989 by Slobodan Milosevic, who was then the president of Serbia.

Last week, the foreign ministers of the United States, Britain, France, Russia, Germany and Italy agreed in Bonn to set a Tuesday deadline for the council to approve a weapons ban in response to the Serbian crackdown in Kosovo.

Yugoslavia has sought to block independence for Kosovo and refused to restore its autonomy.

Christian Groups Vow To Halt Work in Israel

Agence France-Presse

JERUSALEM — Fifty Christian evangelical groups vowed Tuesday to halt missionary work in Israel in a bid to avoid legislation imposing criminal penalties for proselytizing in the Jewish state.

The Christian groups released a joint statement, to be formally issued at a meeting Wednesday, reaffirming their belief in God's covenant with the Jews and promising to avoid "activities which have as their intention to alienate them from their tradition and community."

As a result of the statement, Nissim Zivli, a Labor member of Parliament, announced that he was withdrawing his sponsorship of an anti-proselytizing Bill.

The bill, cosponsored by Moshe Gafni of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism Party, would impose a one-year prison term for "unlawfully holding, printing, copying, spreading, distributing or importing material which has an element of proselytizing."

"Yes, there were arrests, roundups, convoys organized with the concurrence of the French administration," Mr. Chirac admitted in December. "This should be said and understood."

In a poll taken last week, 83 percent of the respondents said they had followed the Papon trial in the news media and 82 percent said it had taught them little new about France's wartime past.

Mr. Papon has been a silent presence behind his shield and a sturdy witness when on the stand, but sometimes his indignation erupted.

When a lawyer for one of the civil parties to the prosecution described the career pattern of Mr. Papon's moral "indifference," including his responsibility for alleged police killings of hundreds of Algerian demonstrators in Paris in 1961, Mr. Papon exploded.

"You are a liar!" he cried.

The presiding judge, Jean-Louis Castagnède, had to shout Mr. Papon into silence.

PAPON: French War Crimes Trial Nears an End for This Old Man, This Token

Continued from Page 1

shield, taking notes or listening, chin in his hand. Only rarely did he betray emotion, and it was never interpreted as regret or contrition.

Mr. Papon is only the second Frenchman to stand trial for war crimes since the kangaroo-court French purges of Nazi collaborators right after the liberation of France.

He wound up in the courtroom in Bordeaux largely for reasons of longevity. His wartime boss in Bordeaux is dead, as are all the higher-ups in the collaborationist government that was established in the spa of Vichy after the humiliating French defeat by German forces.

The defense charged repeatedly that Mr. Papon was targeted as a potential war crimes suspect in the notable place, in 1981, because of the war public career that followed his 1942 time service in Bordeaux from 1942 to 1944, when he was in his early 30s.

After the war, he was promoted rapidly in the civil service, eventually idly to become Paris police chief rising to become Paris police chief during most of his outing, he was budget minister in the government of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The revelations about Mr. Papon, in

the French muckraking paper Le Canard Enchaîné, came only days before Mr. Giscard's defeat by François Mitterrand in the 1981 elections.

Mr. Mitterrand's personal intervention for Mr. Papon delayed his trial for many of the 16 years before the proceedings opened here in October. Mr. Mitterrand, too, had served as a minor Vichy official before he joined the Resistance.

To the general charge that Mr. Papon signed deportation orders that carried French Jews, including 223 children, to their fate under the Nazi "final solution," Mr. Varaut's defense team has argued that Mr. Papon was merely executing the orders of his superior, the prefect, himself subject to pressures and commands originating in Berlin; that Mr. Papon knew nothing of the extermination camps or the fate of the deportees and that he was actually braking the process and in some cases personally intervening to save Jews.

Some witnesses, former Resistance officials and historians, asserted that Mr. Papon quietly served the underground movement by passing along information.

The trial has, if anything, clouded the picture of what Mr. Papon did and did not do as secretary-general of the

Gironde department, the second-ranking official in the central French administration of this southwestern province. The job included supervision of the local office of "Jewish questions," the Nazi-ordered apartheid regime for Jews.

Documentary evidence from the period is ambiguous or conflicting. While contemporary witnesses are virtually nonexistent, the parade of testimony in Bordeaux has given jurors room for doubt about Mr. Papon's actions, motivations and personal responsibility for what sometimes were called "state crimes" or "collective crimes."

Sensing the jury's and the public's gnawing sympathy for Mr. Papon, even one of the most vociferous lawyers representing the families of the victims, Arno Klarsfeld, suggested that a sentence short of life imprisonment was "equitable" under the circumstances. Some of his fellow-lawyers were outraged.

The trial has been amply covered in the French media, occasioning soul-searching and debates about culpability for the deportation of more than 75,000 Jews from occupied France.

A rightist political leader complained about the "self-flagellation" of the nation implied in the judicial

prosecution of crimes committed more than a half-century ago. Both President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin have spoken about the necessity of acknowledging French complicity in the genocide of Jews.

"Yes, there were arrests, roundups, convoys organized with the concurrence of the French administration," Mr. Chirac admitted in December. "This should be said and understood."

In a poll taken last week, 83 percent of the respondents said they had followed the Papon trial in the news media and 82 percent said it had taught them little new about France's wartime past.

Mr. Papon has been a silent presence behind his shield and a sturdy witness when on the stand, but sometimes his indignation erupted.

When a lawyer for one of the civil parties to the prosecution described the career pattern of Mr. Papon's moral "indifference," including his responsibility for alleged police killings of hundreds of Algerian demonstrators in Paris in 1961, Mr. Papon exploded.

"You are a liar!" he cried.

The presiding judge, Jean-Louis Castagnède, had to shout Mr. Papon into silence.

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INTERNATIONAL

Albright Stresses Gains Of Ross's Mideast Trip

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Tuesday that there had been "some progress" in U.S.-led efforts to revive Middle East peace talks but no major breakthrough had been achieved.

Commenting on a just-completed diplomatic mission to the region by Dennis Ross, the U.S. special envoy, Mrs. Albright said "there has been some progress" in breaking a stalemate in peace efforts. "Obviously we are concerned about the fact that for a year now there has been a stalemate on the Middle East peace process," she said.

"We have been working very hard to try to bridge the gap between the two parties," Mrs. Albright said of efforts to find a compromise between Israeli and Palestinian positions.

Noting that Mr. Ross had presented both sides with "some ideas" to break the stalemate, Mrs. Albright said: "There has been some progress as a result of his most recent trip, but really it's not nearly enough, I think, for us to say there has been a breakthrough."

ISRAEL: Divided by TV Series

Continued from Page 1

of the revival of the Jewish nation in the Holy Land.

For traditional Israeli historians — and critics of the series — the narrative of Israel's founding is this: Idealistic Jewish pioneers settled a wide-open land called Palestine that was sparsely populated with Arab natives. The Jews came to live peacefully with the Arabs and to enhance the quality of life for all. They believed in compromise but were confronted with Arab aggression and were forced to fight back.

During Israel's War of Independence in 1948, Arabs left their villages in Palestine at the urging of the region's Arab leaders, who promised they would be able to return after Israel was destroyed. But the Jews won the war for their homeland against the Arab armies.

That is the version taught in Israeli schools and the one most Israelis believe.

But a group of "new historians" has taken a skeptical look at that traditional Zionist view and begun shattering what it calls "the myths" of the founding of the state. The new historians say they portray Israeli heroes such as Prime Ministers David Ben-Gurion and Golda Meir as human beings who made mistakes as well as history.

The new historians accuse the founders of having failed to do enough to save European Jews during the Holocaust of World War II. They argue that Israel passed up opportunities for negotiations with Arab states and evicted hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their villages during the 1948 war. Israel implemented a tough policy of no return and retaliation "in kind" for terrorist attacks in the 1950s.

The controversial segments of the television series, which begins in 1936 with a wave of Jewish settlement in British-ruled Palestine and ends with the assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish law student in 1995, adopt many of the views of the new historians that critics have branded "post-Zionism."

The series accuses Israel's European, or Ashkenazi, majority, of having mistreated Middle Eastern immigrants, known as Sephardim.

It accepts matter-of-factly that about 700,000 Palestinians fled Palestine out of fear or under military threat during the 1948 war. This goes far beyond other mainstream accounts of history.

While officials such as Mrs. Livnat and Mr. Sharon see the "Tekuma" account of history as destructive, the series producer, Gideon Drori, defends it as a healthy step forward for a secure and mature society.

"Criticism can be judged by the results it yields," Mr. Drori told the weekly newspaper Kol Ha'ir. "In my opinion, this is constructive criticism. What is destructive about a society which is examining itself and asking questions? That weakens us? In my opinion, it strengthens. We are not less patriotic Israelis than those people who have trouble looking at themselves."

The series includes footage never before aired on Israeli television of Palestinians who remained in Israel after the war surrendering their weapons to Jewish soldiers and of Arab schoolchildren dancing in the formation of a Star of David, waving Israeli flags on Independence Day.

"Obviously it is important that there has been some movement but we also have to make very clear that there is a level of frustration both here and in the Middle East because the stalemate has gone on," she said.

Her comments, after speaking with Mr. Ross to obtain his assessment, contrasted with a statement by her spokesman Monday that described the state of the talks as "dire."

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shrugged off U.S. assessments Tuesday that Middle East peace moves were in "dire straits," insisting that he had not sent Mr. Ross home empty-handed.

Mr. Netanyahu, touring a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, said he was not worried that Washington would turn up the heat on Israel over a West Bank troop pullback.

"We didn't send him empty-handed and he didn't leave empty-handed," Mr. Netanyahu said when asked why he had sent Mr. Ross home with nothing to show from his five-day trip.

"We gave each other some good ideas, what I would call bridging proposals," he said during a visit to the Ma'ale Adumim settlement east of Jerusalem.

He declined to elaborate, saying only that the proposals had been both "serious" and "creative" and that he estimated that talks over a package of U.S. ideas to advance peace moves would continue.

"If we meet again, we'll be able to see if we indeed have a bridge," Mr. Netanyahu said.

The U.S. proposals reportedly call for Israel to withdraw from another 13.1 percent of the West Bank in return for tougher Palestinian measures to curb guerrilla violence.

Israel has called the 13.1 percent figure unacceptable and insisted that the U.S. proposals lay out a detailed road map for Palestinian steps on security in parallel with a phased Israeli troop withdrawal.

"We're no suckers," Mr. Netanyahu said. "We don't give without receiving. We want to receive something real in return."

Mr. Ross has warned of diminishing hopes for peace after failing to advance U.S. ideas to end a yearlong peace-making deadlock.



Mr. Arafat, right, emerging Tuesday from the Anne Frank House.

Arafat Visits the Anne Frank House

The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat paid a private visit to the Anne Frank House museum Tuesday, saying that he wanted to learn firsthand about the suffering of the young Jewish diarist and her family.

"I want to see for myself the reality of the facts about what they suffered," Mr. Arafat said before a visit to the museum.

The foundation that runs the museum said it had no objection to Mr. Arafat's visit.

The narrow canal-side house was fenced off for Mr. Arafat's visit. Large

crowds cheered as the Palestinian leader entered the house flanked by aides.

There were no protests outside the museum, but a group representing Dutch Jews and families of World War II Resistance workers reacted angrily to the visit.

Wim Kortbeek of the Netherlands Israel Public Affairs Committee said "this is no more than a cheap publicity stunt that desecrates the memory of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust."

The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center welcomed Mr. Arafat's visit to the Anne Frank House.

EMU: Italy Defends Sustainability of Return to Economic Health

Continued from Page 1

of GDP to meet the debt goal.

Helmut Schlesinger, a former president of the Bundesbank, called Italy's debt-reduction program "a hugely ambitious task." Germany, he said, had great difficulty trimming its debt even by the slightest amount.

At Germany's insistence, EU governments last year adopted a Stability and Growth Pact that could result in large fines for countries within the euro zone that failed to keep their public finances in order. Mr. Ciampi said this should not be seen as a permanent strait-jacket. "Sound public finances are an essential condition for growth," he said, but intelligent application of the stability pact should go hand in hand with an expanded role for the EU Council of Finance Ministers in conducting economic policies.

"The restoration of public finances has been carried out not as an end in itself but to create the preconditions for development," Mr. Ciampi said. "Who wants to sail the high seas must first make sure the boat is watertight."

He said Europeans would question the purpose of monetary union unless it helped reduce high unemployment. But he warned that public spending in favor of jobs was no longer an option. The task of governments now, Mr. Ciampi said, was to create the economic conditions that would enable private companies to compete successfully and create jobs.

Mr. Ciampi was supported by France's finance minister, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, who said Italy had achieved a "remarkable and sustainable" economic recovery. "I am not worried about the debt," he said. "Italy raises loans cheaper than Britain. It is as if the euro already is in place."

Mr. Strauss-Kahn also said France had pushed for the kind of economic coordination among finance ministers to which Mr. Ciampi referred. He said ministers from the 11 countries that were expected to be chosen to join the single currency at a summit meeting in Brussels on May 2 would need to meet privately to start preparing their 1999 budgets.

Mr. Schlesinger warned against any political actions that could be seen as impinging on the independence of the European Central Bank, which is due to start operations by July 1 at the latest. Particularly, he warned against any attempt to use exchange rates — "even purely verbal propaganda" — as an instrument of foreign-trade policy.

An American economist, Fred Bergsten, director of the Institute for International Economics, said he was concerned on the other hand that the European central bank would conduct a policy of benign neglect toward the euro's exchange rate as the United States had done with the dollar, which he said could produce volatility and dangerous ripples in world trade.

While he was not advocating fixed exchange rates, Mr. Bergsten said, the United States and Europe would need to set up mechanisms to avoid excessive currency swings, such as target zones for exchange rates.

Mr. Bergsten predicted that the euro would within a few years rival the dollar as a global reserve currency, with each

accounting for 40 percent of world trade. "I predict the euro will move up alongside the dollar in a bipolar rather than a dollar-centered system," he said.

Mr. Bergsten predicted the euro would create a formidable economic and financial counterweight to the United States, with a higher economic output and a considerably larger share of foreign trade. In addition, he said, Europe was better placed to attract investment than the United States, with its \$1.5 trillion debt increasing by \$250 billion a year.

Mr. Bergsten said the euro would probably start 15 percent to 20 percent undervalued, and he added that it was clear to him that the price of the dollar against the euro would have to come down "substantially." It was this prospect that risked touching off extreme market volatility, he said, and creating difficulties for European exporters.

The EU does not have a policy on exchange rates. EU leaders have said that the first task of the European Central Bank will be to ensure price stability within the euro zone.

EUROPE: Bundesbank's Report Conveys Subtext of Skepticism

Continued from Page 1

"A culture of stability cannot be regarded as being assured in all countries."

"All in all, it is becoming evident that the majority of the member states will not achieve the aim of the Stability and Growth Pact in the medium term."

"In the case of a fairly large number of member states, the government spending ratio needs to be reduced and further radical reforms of the social-security systems need to be undertaken in order to achieve a sustainable fiscal position."

The sharp decline in budget deficits in 1997 is, in some cases, attributable to one-off measures. Additionally, sufficient provision has not yet been made everywhere for the foreseeable future burdens. To date, most member states are not sufficiently geared to the future obligations arising

from the Stability and Growth Pact."

"In the convergence debate, the debt criterion and its implications for budget policy have frequently and unjustifiably been neglected."

Overall, in spite of the general approval given EMU, this is hardly the stuff of an embrace.

Instead, the Bundesbank considers that only five countries have sufficiently stripped down their budgets to the point where they can "unreservedly be classified as being sustainable," or are likely to perform to the level needed for the euro to inspire full confidence. Since this group includes Denmark and Britain, both of whom have chosen not to join the euro's first wave, the only three participant countries to inspire the Bundesbank's unqualified backing are Ireland, Finland and Luxembourg.

All the other countries are not performing up to the bank's notions of long-term compliance with the convergence criteria. Rather than assume they will do so and achieve solid monetary union, the report only offers admonitions such as "it must not fail after it has been established" and "the economic fundamentals must be right upon entry."

France and Germany are both criticized for their "pronounced expansionist tendency" in relation to government debt. France is listed, in addition, as one of those employing one-time measures to make their ratios of deficits to gross domestic product approach the reference level of 3 percent for 1997. As for Italy and Belgium, the Bundesbank surprises no one in underscoring its long-stated reservations about their financial positions and says they cause "serious concern."

In its concluding assessment, the bank's report allows that individual countries "have come a good way" and have achieved "considerable progress." But it says with greater emphasis that the success of EMU has much to do with the performance of Europe's real economies.

Here again, the Bundesbank carefully chooses its tone, and it is not inspirational.

University Lesson No. 1: Pay Your Bills or Get Out

In South Africa, Debt-Laden Schools Get Tough

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

BELLVILLE, South Africa — It has become an annual ritual at virtually all of the universities once set aside for blacks under apartheid. With the start of the academic year each February come the student demonstrations: Campuses are vandalized, hostages taken, tires burned in the streets and officials blocked from their offices.

The reason for the turmoil is always the same. As cash-strapped students try to register at the cash-strapped colleges, administrators try to turn away those who have not paid their bills. But usually, in the face of angry students, they cave in.

It has been such a regular dance for the last few years that the clashes hardly make headlines, though the schools' debts are crushing.

But this year the University of Western Cape — owed more than \$10 million — decided that enough was enough. With more than half of its 14,000 students behind on payments, the university stood fast: No money, no classes.

In the standoff that followed, several hundred students were arrested and locked out of the dormitories. They spent the night in a field beside the entrance gates.

"You just feel as if your dignity is completely gone," said Sparks Jama, 22, who is studying law and owes about \$4,500. "The police was there and dogs. It was very cold."

Whether the government should provide free education to the poor has been a heated debate. Many students say they cannot afford the bills and should be helped because apartheid left their parents penniless and allocated far less for blacks' education than for that of whites. Indeed, universities like this one, whose enrollment is still almost all black, were set up as second-rate schools.

But some say the protesters are paupered and that by giving in, the universities are helping to foster the very habits of nonpayment that could bankrupt them.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the African National Congress encouraged South Africans to refuse to pay rent, water and electricity bills as a weapon against local governments during the fight to end apartheid. But the habit did

not go away when the first black national government was elected in 1994. Officials at the University of Western Cape said they took their tough stand this year because they had to.

"In the past most of us said, 'Ach, let it go,' and that's created the trouble," said Cecil Abrahams, rector and vice-chancellor of the university and chairman of the Historically Disadvantaged Institutions Forum, an association of the 10 colleges created in the 1960s for black and mixed-race students. "This year we said: 'We are not getting anywhere. If we continue along these lines, we will collapse. We are helping to destroy these places by not being fiscally responsible.'"

Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu says it is about time the universities realized that the government will not bail them out. The nation's public universities are owed more than \$100 million.

Tuition at the formerly black colleges, already heavily subsidized by government, is \$700 to \$1,100 a year, about half that of the more prestigious and academically rigorous formerly white schools like the University of Cape Town or Stellenbosch University.

The standoff here ended with the students accepting a tough fiscal plan demanding debt payments, a deposit for this year and the right to kick out defaulters.

BRIEFLY

French Link Is Seen In Rwandan Crisis

PARIS — The missiles that brought down a French plane carrying the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi — sparking the Rwandan genocide in 1994 — came from French armories, Le Figaro newspaper said Tuesday.

President Juvénal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Cyprien Ntaryamira of Burundi died when at least one of two ground-to-air missiles hit their executive jet as it approached Kigali, Rwanda, on April 6, 1994.

Blame has never been officially apportioned. Le Figaro said the missiles, Russian-made SAM-16s, were captured by French troops from Iraq during the Gulf War. (Reuters)

Israel Says It Wants To Leave Lebanon

JERUSALEM — Hoping to signal that it means business, the Israeli cabinet will adopt a United Nations resolution this week calling for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, a senior aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday.

"It is important to make our intentions clear," Mr. Netanyahu said. "We want to leave Lebanon and we want the government of Lebanon to enter south Lebanon and take charge."

David Bar-Ilan, a senior aide to Mr. Netanyahu, said that 11 of the 18 ministers, members of the so-called Security Cabinet, are to meet Wednesday to vote on UN Resolution 425, which was adopted in 1978 and which calls for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. (AP)

Saudis Finish Inquiry On Dhahran Bombing

WASHINGTON — The Saudi Arabian government said Monday that it had completed its investigation into the terrorist bombing in June 1996, that killed 19 American airmen and wounded 500 others, but would not immediately release the results of the inquiry.

The announcement caught the Clinton administration by surprise and led to new fears that the culprits might never be brought to justice.

Officials at the State Department and the Justice Department said that the American investigation of the bombing of the Khobar Towers, a military housing complex in Dhahran, was far from over and that the terrorists had still not been identified with certainty. (NYT)

For the Record

Well-armed gang leaders are killing fellow prisoners in Venezuela's overcrowded prisons, where 345 inmates were murdered last year, a government official said. (Reuters)

CYPRUS: Russia Assures Athens on Arms

Continued from Page 1

that Russia was hoping to sell its S-300 systems to Greece and was due to complete in a tender in May against a U.S. offer of Patriot missiles.

Mr. Tsobatzopoulos is also due to meet the secretary of Russia's Security Council, Andrei Kokoshin, Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov and Acting Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Rybkin.

He also plans to visit several defense industry institutes and will give a news conference Thursday.

Cyprus Makes Pitch to Join EU

Cyprus opened its bid to join the European Union, reminding EU foreign ministers that Europe, too, overcame conflict to achieve peace and prosperity. The Associated Press reported from Brussels.

"The EU accession process will undoubtedly change the context of the Cyprus problem and act as a catalyst for

the reunification of our country," Foreign Minister Yannis Kasoulides of Cyprus said at the opening of talks.

The EU decided in 1995 to proceed with membership negotiations, even if that means talking only with Greek Cypriots.

The EU's view is that it is obliged to deal with the only internationally recognized government on Cyprus.

The Turkish-Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktaş, has rejected all offers to join the negotiating team. He said he would only do so if his Ankara-backed government is recognized as an equal, threatening otherwise to draw closer to Turkey.

Turkey's own effort to join in membership negotiations was also rejected. Ankara has been making increasingly hostile statements over the issue, and Foreign Minister Ismail Cem of Turkey reminded Turkish Cypriots on Monday that "the decision to integrate with Turkey is always yours."

POISON: U.S. Disputes Tokyo's Claim That Seed Caused Illness

Continued from Page 1

some mused that Japan was using the United States as a scapegoat.

Yukio Okamoto, a former Japanese diplomat, said the emotion around the announcement showed "how inflammatory the Japan-U.S. relationship is."

Japan is America's biggest agricultural export market, a trade that is extremely sensitive to concerns about food cleanliness. Already the \$2 million trade in U.S. radish seeds here has virtually evaporated.

Mike Woolsey, agriculture attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, said that U.S. beef exports dropped by \$300 million in the nine months following the 1996 outbreak as people suspected, without any basis, that American beef might be to blame. He said it had since rebounded but that now the radish seed trade had "stopped cold."

"Consumers here are deeply suspicious about the safety of imported

foods," Mr. Woolsey said. "That's why it is so important to respond quickly with the facts whenever the safety of U.S. products is questioned."

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, scientific facts do not support the Japanese findings. The agency also said the Japanese had not indicated when and where the bacteria contaminated the seeds, leaving open the possibility they had been contaminated after being shipped to Japan.

Also, the U.S. Embassy said Tuesday, Japanese officials came to their conclusion based on a single laboratory's results, while 10 other laboratories, both Japanese and American, "had similar results that disagreed with that one lab's data."

Japanese health officials say they have found contaminated seeds from Oregon in samples from a Japanese radish sprout producer who provided the vegetable to two victims. But the Food and Drug Administration said Japanese

scientists had not directly linked any victim of poisoning to the allegedly contaminated seeds.

The flare-up between the United States and Japan on this issue follows a lawsuit by Japanese radish sprout growers over similar charges.

Financially devastated after government officials suggested that sprouts had caused the poisonings, the Japanese growers sued the government.

Infection with the E. coli O157:H7 strain causes severe diarrhea and cramps, and in the most extreme cases, kidney failure. The strain is found in the intestines of animals and humans and can contaminate meat and the water supply.

Mr. Michino, the Japanese Health Ministry official, said he understood that American officials had concerns about the announcement, but he said Japan was approaching food poisoning season, hot weather, and "we are just trying to protect people."

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Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

America and Iran

The United States and Iran are engaged in the delicate business of trying to repair a broken relationship. Reconciliation will not be easy, and may prove impossible if Iran does not end its support of terrorism and its effort to develop nuclear weapons. But the initial signs are promising and should be pursued.

Iran's new president, Mohammad Khatami, and President Bill Clinton have already altered the tone of relations by speaking respectfully of one another's country and culture. Iran has shifted policy by accepting the idea of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, curbing Iraqi oil smuggling and inviting cultural exchanges with America. After Iran warmly greeted an American wrestling team in February, Mr. Clinton acknowledged the gesture by receiving the wrestlers at the White House.

These may seem modest steps, but they required a fair degree of courage by both leaders. Mr. Clinton still faces strong opposition in Congress to improved relations and knows that a misstep with Tehran could hand Republicans a foreign policy issue in this year's congressional elections. President Khatami, for his part, must contend with the conservative clerics who still hold supreme authority in Iran and are wary of his leadership in general and his opening to Washington in particular.

Even now he is restrained from opening direct talks with the White House.

The benefits of better relations could be significant for both countries. For America, the military containment and economic isolation of Iraq would be greatly simplified. Mideast peace talks, if they can be revived, would unfold in a less hostile regional environment, and Syria would feel pressure to bargain on realistic terms. Tensions between America and Europe over energy investments in Iran would be defused, and more economical pipeline routes would be feasible for oil and gas from newly developed fields in the Caspian basin.

With an end to American pressure, Iran could obtain cheaper capital to develop its energy resources and the rest of its economy. It could also draw greater profit from its geographic location as the most direct route for oil and gas pipelines from the Caspian to Turkey, Europe and beyond. Better relations with Washington would leave Iran less isolated and vulnerable to Iraq, and better able to exercise its influence as a regional power.

Obstacles remain, but mending relations between America and Iran is worth some work and some risk for Mr. Khatami and Mr. Clinton.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Clogging the Archives

Think how much e-mail an office produces in a given day. Then think of the U.S. government, where, by well-established law, records must be saved if they have administrative, historical, legal or other significance — and where a series of unambiguous court cases has concluded that e-mail is included in those categories.

How much of the e-mail the government generates must be saved, and in what form? The potential volume of data involved makes it easy enough to understand why the National Archives, the agency responsible for saving the stuff, has spent the past six years fighting in court for, essentially, the right to throw more of it out.

Appreciating the Archives' plight, does not mean agreeing that the solution to the knotty problems of electronic archiving is to allow the deletion of huge amounts of disputed government e-mail. Archivist of the United States John Carlin had initially issued a general directive instructing all the agencies to print out any significant portions of their e-mail and delete the rest. But a

court threw out that policy five months ago after nonprofit groups brought suit calling for a more specific plan.

The task of coming up with a coherent policy for all this electronic data — which presents technical and storage problems as well as volume problems — is, of course, immense. That has served so far as an invitation to deadlock and paralysis. The Archives have been taken to court repeatedly by outside groups seeking to prevent the destruction of what could be historically significant records — precisely the goal for which the Archives themselves were created. Although it is no novelty for outside groups to press government agencies to carry out the functions they are chartered to perform, the problem in this case seems to be of supplying the will to get through what is essentially a technical, not a policy, bottleneck.

The archiving task presented is nothing short of crushing, but the thing has got to be solved sometime, and it should not have to happen in court.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

What Is 'Organic'?

Two decades of fights over food labeling and nutrition have suggested at least two laws of behavior. First, Americans have an unquenchable hunger to know as much as possible about what is in their food. Second, once they have the information they are remarkably likely to ignore it and eat just what they like. Both tendencies are perfectly well understood by the combatants in the current fight between the Department of Agriculture and food growers who want to call their product "organic."

It is a near perfect echo of the fight over the adjective "light" (or "lite") that raged throughout the 1980s. Like that fight, this one is driven primarily by the existence of consumers who will pay extra for food labeled "organic," and a consequent eagerness by all sorts of producers to grab the word for themselves. But who is entitled to it?

The Agriculture Department last year set out a series of rules attempting to define the word, but the draft was met, predictably enough, by a chorus of complaints from small producers that the definition was so broad that it failed to exclude the bigger agricultural concerns from which the "organic" label was supposed to set them off. Consider, for instance, a meat packager that irradiates its steaks. Some consider this the best way to ensure safe meat; others find it ominous and want to avoid it. Under the proposed rule, irradiated steaks could still be labeled "organic," which annoys the people who want to avoid irradiated meat (for whatever reason) and, more to the point, the no-irradiation specialty farmers who want to market to those people.

What is needed here is a lot more than one word's definition can supply, no matter how much lobbying and lobbying goes into that definition's fine

points. The question of what was "light," "low-cholesterol" or "reduced-fat" was eventually answered not just by exhaustive definitions but by a whole new labeling system in which percentages of calories, fats and other nutrients were presented, cumbersome but transparent, leaving the consumer to work out individual obsessions at whatever level came naturally.

Similarly, the negotiations on what is "organic" should not be allowed to overshadow or legally preempt other, more specific claims by producers that their beef is non-irradiated, their cows are untreated with growth hormone, their fertilizer is not synthetic, or whatever they like. It is all a little unwieldy, but this particular market has not said its hunger for information, let alone decided which of that information is junk.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Other Comment

Parents Have to Choose

Choices must be made between family and work. The first must take priority over the second.

This choice affects women more profoundly than men because women are closer to their children. If we care about how children are raised in their early years, and if, as is now the case, how they are raised is left to overwhelmed women or institutional arrangements, the only way we can restore the balance is by committing money to the task of inducing actions that were once the product of spontaneous arrangements.

From "Human Remedies for Social Disorders," by James Q. Wilson, in the Spring issue of *Responsive Community*.

The Trouble to Remove in Iraq Is Saddam Himself

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — The UN inspectors entered the room in one of Saddam Hussein's "palaces." What was in this room, what was its function? The inspectors asked the Iraqi monitors crowding around them.

"Office of the special security organization," was the answer. Then how come there is not a piece of paper, a document of any kind to be found here? The Iraqis just did not know.

The palaces are great compounds that include offices and warehouses of Saddam's military, weapon-production and security organizations. As part of a deal with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan last month, Saddam gave inspectors permission to enter the compounds barred to them for seven years. Nobody was crude enough to say that under the cease-fire agreement he signed with the Gulf War coalition in 1991 he had no right to keep them out for a day.

Now, in return for his act of grace and pending contracts, he knows that Russia, France, China and the Muslim countries will push hard to lift the sanctions that have blocked his military growth.

I wonder how diplomats kept a straight face during the closed UN Security Council meetings, when they approved the deal that Saddam had worked out with Mr. Annan. It bears the seeds of destruction of the entire inspection system, which uncovered so much of Saddam's weaponry of mass destruction — but not all.

First, Saddam gets away penalty-free for having tied up the inspection system since last fall. Bigger: The system is revised to his taste, with a small army of diplomats attached to inspect the professional inspectors.

And, the kicker: When inspectors finally entered suspect sites, he had had more time than he needed to move out suspicious documents and materials, as he did in that "security" office.

It is almost funny, this charade, but not hugely.

The inspectors had eliminated much of Saddam's chemical, biological and nuclear weaponry and were close to the rest. They were looking mostly for documents — documents that could reveal Iraqi testing of chemical and biological weapons on live humans, lead to missing warheads, disclose orders for chemicals that make the chemicals that make people dead. So foiling inspection by sanitizing sites and attaching non-inspectors to the inspection team were important to Saddam.

Sometimes inspectors tried to save face for the United Nations by saying, my, how cooperative the Iraqis had become. The truth is that after a few days the Iraqis started whittling down even the Annan-Saddam terms. They began skipping appointments, losing keys to locked doors, protesting against taking this picture or that, pushing surveillance so tight that it risks accidents.

The inspectors are the system's only remaining protection. They will not give Saddam the clearance he needs to get sanctions lifted unless he suddenly decides he does not want weapons of mass destruction after all. But he has

powerful friends at the United Nations, and the United States so far has been no pillar of constancy against Saddam.

Once again, Saddam, with the help of UN allies like China, Russia and France, has come out way ahead. As in every self-made crisis since the end of the Gulf War, he has gained prestige by suckering the United States.

This time Saddam & Co. made the world concentrate on his campaign against the sanctions instead of on the core issue: that Saddam was and always will be a danger to world peace. He has never forsaken the kind of aggression that brought the Gulf War, never designed to conceal his plans to dominate the Middle East.

But Saddam's growing power at the

United Nations has focused some U.S. minds on the reality that America faces — not inspection, not sanctions, but Saddam. In an article for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate, Henry Kissinger put it entirely straight and clear:

"After all that has passed between Saddam Hussein and the U.S., no deal is conceivable no matter what Saddam does regarding inspection. The depth of this feeling must be understood by foreign leaders pressing for accommodation ... If we cannot negotiate with Saddam we must try to weaken or, if possible, to overthrow him. The outcome of any crisis with Saddam must be viewed in terms of its impact on that objective."

The New York Times.

The Overriding Goal Is for Unscm to Succeed

By Joseph F. Pilat and Terence T. Taylor

agreement with Iraq reached by Kofi Annan has some troubling aspects.

These are not necessarily fatal flaws, and one can imagine the agreement working adequately. The way this plays out will depend ultimately on key unanswered questions.

How will the detailed procedures for the diplomatic overtures be implemented over time? What role will the secretary-general play? Will the diplomats play a decisive role in the inspections? Will there be a rush to judgment on Iraqi compliance?

The appointment of Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala, a highly capable Sri Lankan diplomat and nonproliferation expert, who will report directly to Mr. Butler, is positive. Mr. Butler's promise that inspections at presidential sites would not be limited to one visit and would involve less notice than the first such visit is also welcome.

On the other hand, remarks of Mr. Butler on the possibility for ending Unscm's work in a year, whatever motivated them, will increase expectations for an early end to sanctions.

Unscm is unique, and it could not be recreated. This was clear long before the recent crisis. Its experience, and the role of the Security Council, can in principle provide elements of a model for dealing with other adversarial cases involving noncompliance with global

treaties proscribing nuclear, biological and chemical weaponry.

That could also apply to cooperative cases when a state wishes to disarm and to assure the international community that it is doing so.

South Africa's decision to destroy its nuclear weapons was carried out unilaterally. The International Atomic Energy Agency was invited in later to demonstrate to the world that it had indeed disarmed. Some kind of special commission, presumably drawing on aspects of the Unscm model, could have been used to assure the international community that this nuclear weapon program had been dismantled and the proliferation risks minimized.

Should North Korea collapse, South Korea might be in the position of having to assure neighboring states that all NBC and missile programs had ended.

It is critical that Unscm complete its mission and that its experience be available to the international community as a guide to what is possible.

The presidential site visits do not pose a true test of the Annan agreement, and we may expect the political will of the Security Council to be tested time and again in the months ahead. Vigilance is essential. Iraqi behavior may still make resort to force necessary.

The writers, respectively research associate and assistant director at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

For Today's East Asia, Europe Can Be a Friend in Need

By Tommy Koh

SINGAPORE — Europe has not lost its interest in East Asia. It will prove that it is not a fair-weather friend. It will live up to the maxim that a friend in need is a friend indeed. I expect all 16 European Union leaders to attend the summit meeting with leaders from East Asia that starts on Friday in London.

The recent economic turmoil in East Asia cannot erase certain economic trends and developments of the last three decades. East Asia's share of the world economy increased steadily from 9 percent in 1965 to 24 percent in 1993. East Asia has replaced America as the European Union's largest export market. In 1996, the EU exported \$123 billion worth of goods and services to East Asia.

A stable triangle among North America, Western Europe and East Asia will contribute to a more stable and prosperous world.

The first Asia-Europe summit was held two years ago in

Bangkok. What has been achieved since then?

More than 30 meetings, events and projects have taken place. Foreign ministers have initiated a political dialogue. Economic and finance ministers and trade officials have met. The Asia-Europe Business Forum has met twice and has created new networks between the two regions in several clusters of industries.

Various other meetings have been held, involving universities, science and technology, customs cooperation, the financing of infrastructure projects, environmental technology and television journalism.

On Feb. 15, 1997, was born the Asia-Europe Foundation, based in Singapore. The foundation's aim is to enhance mutual understanding through intellectual, cultural, media and people-to-people exchanges.

Its projects have already in-

cluded convening a first roundtable of news editors, in Luxembourg last October; co-organizing with France the first Asia-Europe Cultural Forum, in Paris last month; co-organizing with a German foundation and a Singapore think tank the first Asia-Europe Forum, which brought together 60 figures from the two regions; launching a web site that we will use to twin high schools; co-hosting with Britain an ambitious festival of intellectual, cultural and artistic events in London.

Achievements at this week's summit will be significant. I expect the leaders to issue an important statement on the East Asian economic crisis. The statement will reaffirm that Europe has a major stake in the economies of East Asia.

European banks have a combined exposure of \$350 billion, which is greater than those of U.S. and Japanese banks com-

bined. The statement will recall that Europe has been helping the affected economies through its 30 percent share in the IMF, through additional bilateral assistance and through such international organizations as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The statement will reaffirm that the IMF has an indispensable role to play in restoring international and domestic confidence, and that the affected economies should implement the IMF-prescribed programs of reform and restructuring. However, the role of the IMF should be supplemented by humanitarian aid for people in distress and by export credit to enable commerce to flow.

Finally, European leaders will express their confidence that East Asia will bounce back, and that those economies which implement the necessary reforms and restructuring will emerge stronger and more competitive than before the crisis.

The summit will adopt two British initiatives: establishment of a trust fund at the World Bank, and creation of a Center on Financial Restructuring. The main purpose of the fund is to assist in assessing the poverty impact of the crisis. The objective of the center is to help countries in their financial restructuring by providing training, advice and consultancy.

The summit will endorse an investment promotion plan and a trade facilitation plan. At this critical time, Asia needs a new wave of foreign direct investment from Europe. Investment missions from Europe would be very much welcomed.

In the next several years,

Asia's exports to Europe will increase significantly. It is important for Europe to keep its markets open and to combat domestic protectionist pressures.

At the same time, there must be no retreat on the part of Asia from its commitment to trade and investment liberalization. Asian and European leaders should pledge mutual commitment to strengthen the World Trade Organization.

The British prime minister is keen to make increased education exchange between Asia and Europe one of the chief concerns of the London summit. Malaysia has proposed establishing an Asia-Europe Center at the University of Malaysia. The idea of establishing educational hubs in various countries that would welcome exchange students from the other region is likely to gather support.

Europe has put forward an environmental initiative, linked to the European Commission's humanitarian office. The idea is to launch a program in Southeast Asia to help cope with environmental disasters. The first priority will be forest fires.

The summit will commission a group of wise men and women, known as the Asia-Europe Vision Group, to develop a medium- to long-term vision to help guide Asia-Europe cooperation into the 21st century. The group will report to the foreign ministers next year, and through them, to the third summit, in 2000 in Seoul.

The writer is executive director of the Asia-Europe Foundation. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

This Isn't the Way to Help Russia

By A. M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — The more the U.S. Senate debates the NATO issue, the more the senators actually focus on it, and the more they ask the central question to which the Clinton team has never given a satisfactory answer: "Why are we doing this now?"

If you ask conservative supporters of NATO expansion, they are at least honest about their ends. They want to expand NATO because they are anti-Russian, and they want to contain Russia every bit as much as they wanted to contain the Soviet Union. For them there is no real difference.

The conservatives believe that the United States won the Cold War and is entitled to reap the fruits, which means expanding NATO all the way from its present borders up to the Russian border, including the Baltic states.

Personally, I thought we fought the Cold War not to contain Russia but to change Russia, so that Moscow could really work with the United States in reducing both countries' nuclear arsenals, stemming weapons proliferation and confronting rogue states.

I thought the real fruit of the Cold War would be to have a Russia that cooperates with America on the post-Cold War agenda. That would require investing in Russian democracy. But conservatives would rather enjoy the psychic pleasure of having the Czechs in NATO, rather than the real

advantages that could come from a transformed Russia.

Where conservatives are not being straightforward is about their means. They want NATO to go all the way to the Baltic-Russian border, but America's European allies are dead against that, because they know that it would be a provocation to Moscow.

Conservatives will push ahead with Baltic membership, splitting NATO and triggering a crisis with Russia, or they will leave things where they are and abandon the Balts after promising them membership.

As for the liberal expansionists, they are dishonest about their ends and their means. NATO expansion is not anti-Russian, they aver. The alliance is being expanded simply to consolidate democracy in Europe and to enable NATO to better confront post-Cold War threats.

Oh, really? You mean like Saddam Hussein? He is the epitome of the new post-Cold War threat, and when it came time to confront him, only one NATO ally, Britain, was ready to fight with the United States. The others sent nurses and gas masks.

The liberals also say they care about democracy in Russia, which is still shaky, but prefer to give higher priority to consolidating democracy in Hungary, which is solid.

Liberal senators confide: "I know this isn't a great idea, so I'll just vote for expanding NATO to Poland, Hungary and the Czechs, and we'll cross the bridge with the others later." But this is the biggest fallacy of all.

"NATO expansion is the equivalent of the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution that authorized the war in Vietnam," says the John Hopkins foreign policy expert Michael Mandelbaum.

"Like that commitment to Vietnam, if NATO expansion is launched we will be unable to go backward, because we can't expel these countries; unable to go forward, because the Europeans are not ready to expand NATO to the Russian border; and unable to stay where we are, because we have vowed to expand NATO to the Russian border, and not to do so would be to draw a new dividing line in Europe."

Senator Daniel P. Moynihan, who knows a bad idea when he sees one, says the Gulf of Tonkin analogy is apt. Like that resolution, "NATO expansion involves undefined commitments that tie the hands of future presidents."

One can only hope that more senators will see this. If they vote for NATO expansion, there is no bridge to cross later, there is no cost-free rest stop along the way. There is only a car with no brakes on a slippery slope to trouble.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Spain and Cuba

LONDON — The *Daily Telegraph*, in a leader on America's ultimatum to Spain, says: "On the main question of her right over Cuba, Spain obviously hesitates. No one, according to her contention, can interfere in a conflict which she did not provoke and which was solely due to a rebellion on the part of her own subjects." The leader concludes: "The ultimatum is one which other nations can only take note of in sorrowful and anxious silence."

1923: Ruhr Bloodshed

ESSEN — By far the most serious bloodshed which has occurred since the French entered the Ruhr took place when a small French detachment went to the Krupp Works to requisition a garage and some automobiles. When the French demanded admittance, the watchman blew his siren, summoning the workmen, whose attitude rapidly became threatening. The French, after giving warning, fired a volley over the heads of the workmen. When the workmen scattered, six dead and about thirty wounded were lying on the ground.

1948: Reds in India

NEW DELHI — The Communist party has been banned in the West Bengal Province, and more than 150 arrests were made. In and around New Delhi, offices of the Communist party and certain unions have been raided. These actions were taken on the initiative of local governments. The West Bengal provincial Home Ministry said the Communist objective has been to create chaos and "take advantage of the situation in the country to seize power by violent means."

Herald Tribune
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Directeur de la Publication: Richard McClean
International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel. (1) 41.43.93.00. Fax: Subscriptions, (1) 41.43.92.10. Advertising, (1) 41.43.92.12. News, (1) 41.43.93.38.
Internet address: <http://www.ihb.com> E-Mail: info@ihb.com
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U.K. Advertising Office: 63 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LT. Tel. (171) 836-4802. Fax: (171) 240-2252.
S.A.S. au capital de 1.200.000 F. RCS Nanterre B 732021126 Commission Paritaire No. 61337
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OPINION/LETTERS

Clinton Owes No Apology For Regrets on Slavery

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — Should President Bill Clinton now apologize for apologizing? It seems he should. His remarks about the American role in the slave trade — neither historically inaccurate nor, you would think, all that controversial — have been denounced by no less a personage than a key member of the House Republican leadership, and mocked — nay, scorned — by pundits galore. We Americans are not. I take it, sorry about slavery. Mr. Clinton's words are worth setting down in their full unmarkedness: "Going back to the time before we were even a nation. European-Americans received the fruits of the slave trade and we were wrong in that."

There it is, a bland statement of regret. And yet, the august minority whip of the U.S. House of Representatives, Thomas DeLay, Republican of Texas, blasted the president for what he said in Africa. "Here is a flower child with gray hair doing exactly what he did back in the '60s," Mr. DeLay said, referring to Mr. Clinton's anti-war activities. "He is apologizing for the actions of the U.S."

Well, not exactly. Mr. Clinton did not say anything about the United States, although he certainly could have. Slavery, after all, was not ended until the capitulation of the Confederacy. Until then, it was legal in Mr. DeLay's home state for one human being to own another, and to sell his or her children.

Mr. DeLay further objected that Mr. Clinton had said nothing about the role of Africans, such as "the chieftains in Uganda," who were "selling blacks to the slave traders." While we're mentioning Uganda we should also mention Mr. DeLay's observation that Mr. Clinton said nothing about Idi Amin, the onetime Ugandan dictator who, Mr. DeLay said, killed 500,000 people.

Mr. DeLay was hardly the only person on the right to be so vexed. Patrick Buchanan also picked many a nit in President Clinton's statement and went on to observe that if it were not for what used to be called the "white man," black Africa would still look like the back lot of a Tarzan movie.

Want to Raise Kids From Hell? Here's a How-to Primer

By Donna Britt

WASHINGTON — Just for laughs, let's pretend. Say we wanted to create, in a relatively peaceful society, a nation of youthful killers, or at least just millions of aggressive young jerks. How could we do it?

We would have to start early. Analyzing infants, we would realize their desperate need for love and intimacy. We would also note that a baby's only real job

is to study, digest and mimic everything he or she encounters. Then we would go to work. We would create an economy in which, in most families, both parents needed to work outside the home to survive. Soon after birth, babies would be placed with caregivers who would tend to their basic needs but who, in most cases, would lack the time and interest to invest the same kind of love and attention as parents.

Working parents would remain on the job for ever-increasing hours. Their "free" time at home would be eaten up by bill-paying, cooking, cleaning, helping with homework and finishing tasks uncompleted in the workplace. Many children would still receive considerable love and attention. To minimize that, we could design, say, an electronic box that beamed seductive, violent images into every dwelling.

The box would feature some uplifting programming — comedy, romance, edu-

cational shows. But it would also provide fistfights, beatings, rapes and murders. Now a few troublesome kids would realize that such images are fiction. So we would invent "news" shows, highlighting real-life mayhem from local, national and even international sources. The box could also provide "talk shows" in which real people aired their problems before slapping, kicking and otherwise attacking each other as audiences cheered.

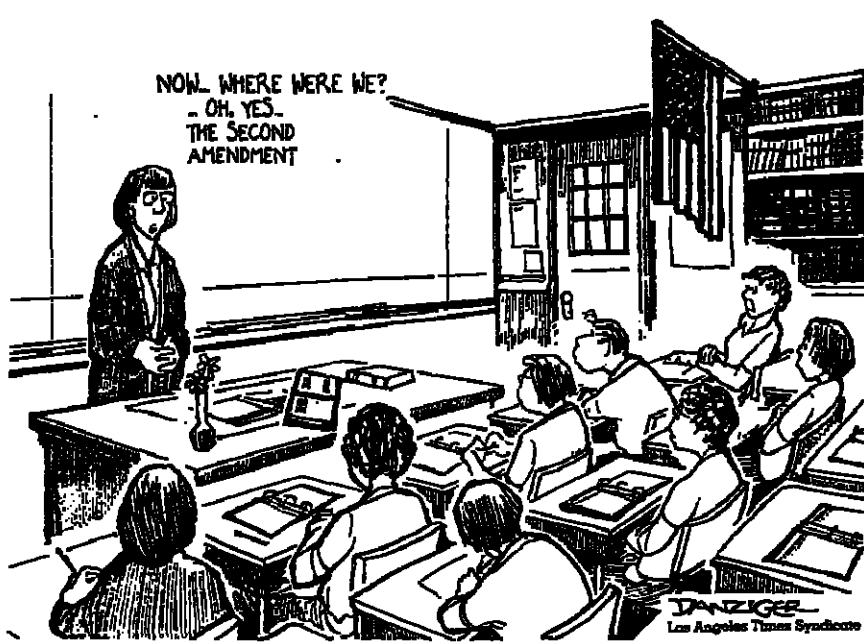
But this still might fail to make enough children violent. So what if we invented strikingly realistic visual computer "games"? Children could shoot, impale or beat to death lifelike images of people and monsters. Blood could splatter. "Victims" could instantly revive to be killed again and again!

Some pesky parents would, of course, limit their children's exposure to the box and the games. To deal with that, we could create public living rooms, complete with comfortable chairs and popcorn!

Here, children could share with strangers the thrill of experiencing, on gigantic screens and with sophisticated sound systems, vivid moving images of stabbings, garrotings, explosions and dismemberments.

No one killed would be mourned for more than a minute; every death would be as choreographed as a ballet.

Also, in certain parts of the country, rural and urban, we could glorify guns, make folks think they cannot live without



Classes resume in Jonesboro.

Then we could make it relatively easy for anyone, even children, to get them.

Still not enough? We could do something with music. Kids love music, as anyone who has watched a baby react to a lullaby can attest. We could attach violent, materialistic or overtly sexualized images to music.

We could even persuade certain music-makers to celebrate guns, greed and irresponsible sex in their songs! They, too, could provide images for the box — of threatening-looking men and barely dressed women, all singing about the glories of instant, consequence-free gratification of every urge.

To be sure that children got the pro-violence message, we adults could pretend to abhor brutishness. Kids are natural

rebels. So we could bemoan violence ceaselessly in the media, and — this is key — feign astonishment each time a youngster assaulted or killed someone.

"How could this happen?" we would wail after each brutality.

With straight faces, we could present shows on the box about "Children Who Kill," write shocked editorials, swear to "get to the bottom" of the problem.

So, if a society actually did those crazy things, would children — not every child, just way too many of them — behave in frighteningly aggressive ways?

Maybe. But what intelligent culture could be so stupid? Just thinking about the prospect is scary.

Thank God it's just pretend.

The Washington Post.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On the Middle East

Regarding "Palestinians, Too, Ought to Have Security" (Opinion, March 19) by Wilfrid Knapp:

In describing his visit to Israel, "Palestine" and the occupied territories, Mr. Knapp indicates his enthusiasm and empathy for Palestinians and his antipathy to and disdain for Israelis.

Palestinians — doctors, teachers, schoolchildren and ordinary workers — possess "enduring dignity"; Israelis are recalled only in the form of the security officer who questioned Mr. Knapp at the airport as part of a standard security procedure.

It is a pity that Mr. Knapp perceives the conflict between Israel-

is and Palestinians in such a distorted light. Israelis are doctors, teachers, schoolchildren and ordinary workers, too. And they face terror on an all too regular basis.

Mr. Knapp suggests that Israel does not have the right to define for itself effective security measures to protect its people. Every country has that right, especially one that since its birth has been engaged in a fight for survival against enemies bent on its annihilation.

As for the tedious security check that Mr. Knapp underwent at the airport, perhaps he could try to understand why it was necessary. It is obviously a task Israel wishes it did not have to perform.

NOAM SCHIMMEL, Jerusalem.

Regarding "What Arafat Teaches Young Palestinians: Slimy Propaganda" (Opinion, March 7) by Charles Krauthammer:

Continuing disturbances on the West Bank make a mockery of Mr. Krauthammer's absurd claim that "the occupation is over" simply because most West Bank Arabs live on land run by the Palestinian Authority. Israel still occupies most of the West Bank, and checkpoints allow Israel to control the movement of Palestinians.

Israel is using this domination, based on military force, to continue to colonize the West Bank, to strangle the Palestinian economy and to divide the Palestinians into apartheid-style enclaves, depriving them of any hope for self-deter-

mination. With America ducking its responsibility as guarantor of the Oslo peace accords, the Palestinians have nowhere to turn.

Mr. Krauthammer cites a poll in which 77 percent of Palestinian respondents supported an attack on Israel by Saddam Hussein. He ignores the desperation behind this figure. An even greater majority of Palestinians supported the peace accords before Benjamin Netanyahu took power.

EARL GOULD, Baillargues, France.

Two-Star Fiasco

Regarding "A Multi-Kitchen Chef Serves Simmering French Debate" (March 12):

So Bernard Naegellen, chief of the Michelin restaurant inspectors, thinks that "the customer has become king" in France.

I wish it were so. We recently invited two friends to lunch at a two-star restaurant in Amboise. The price was princely but the food and service were not.

The meal turned into a long series of gaffes: The waitress spilled the appetizers, which were not replaced; the "amuse-gueule" were stale; the fish was too salty; no bread was provided, and so on. Only if one could live by dessert alone were two stars plausible for this restaurant. Lunch for four came to \$350. CAMILLE FORMAN, Paris.

BOOKS

THE LIFE OF INSECTS

By Victor Pelevin. 179 pages. \$22. Farrar Straus Giroux.

Reviewed by Anthony Olcott

IN order to annoy the bourgeoisie, the Russian avant-garde at the beginning of this century replaced their button-noses with bright yellow spatulas and wrote poems in a "trans-intelligence" language of their own devising, consisting entirely of nonsense syllables. Victor Pelevin, "The Life of Insects," looks to be ending the century in a similar spirit, by transforming his countrymen into bugs.

Born in 1962, a Muscovite reared in Russia's long gray "stagnation" and its underground of bootlegged Pink Floyd albums, samizdat science fiction and self-taught computer geeking, Victor Pelevin has emerged as a leading star of post-Soviet serious literature. His short-story collection "The Blue Lantern" was awarded one of the first Russian Booker Prizes, and his three novels have been translated into most of the European languages.

"The Life of Insects" is a deadpan, sardonic comedy in

which Pelevin transforms the new Russian capitalists and their American partners into bloodsucking mosquitoes, the industrious ordinary citizens into dung-rolling scarab beetles and the ubiquitous whores into gaudy, short-lived nymph flies (apt though that is, it is curious that Pelevin did not choose a different anthropomorphism for these last, since in Russian slang they are "night butterflies"). It is probably the insouciance with which Pelevin treats these characters simultaneously as people and as bugs, who wander their various ways through the crumbling bleakness of a Black Sea beach resort, that has led foreign reviewers to hail this novel as a surreal cyberpunk taxonomy of post-Soviet life.

But for all its determination to shock, there is an air of tired familiarity about "The Life of Insects." In part this is because Franz Kafka and Karel Capek both explored the man-bug trope many decades ago, as did Gary Larson more recently in his "Far Side" cartoons.

In part, too, the book's staleness may be due to the inevitable lag between composition and translation; the

Russian original of this novel appeared in 1993 and seems to have been conceived even earlier, since it is set in Crimea, which has not been part of "Russia" (as we all once called the U.S.S.R.) since 1991.

It is in Pelevin's insistence on preaching to his countrymen, however, that "The Life of Insects" seems most old-fashioned. Pelevin's impulse originates in the golden era of the Russian intelligentsia, when writers took it as both their duty and their right to bector society, pointing out the failures, lies and absurdities of late Soviet rule.

There was a time when Russians lived and died by such literature; many of the writers of that era, and the nameless typists who made the smudged samizdat versions in which their texts circulated before being published abroad, were genuine heroes, who with their labors helped to bring down the Soviet Union.

In the last decade, however, Russian writers, just as Samson did, have discovered that there is a downside to temple-toppling. Freed from ideological censorship, Russia's artists have run head-on into the much more implacable "censorship" of the marketplace. It is practically impossible, for example, to purchase works by Pelevin, or indeed by any of the Russian Booker winners, in Russian editions in Moscow, because it has been years since Russian readers have wished to pay for the privilege of being told that they live without nobility or higher purpose, that they are condemned by fate and nature to crawl among the garbage and decay of a world that was never properly built and which has now fallen

apart, and even that they deserve no better, being bugs.

When Russians read now — which they do much less than they did in 1991 — they mostly want fare that will make them richer, thinner or able to fall asleep more quickly — just as we do. The fulminations of Pelevin, and of the dwindling herd of disappointed intellectuals like him, are dismissed as *chernookha*, a lovely neologism that suggests the masochistic eroticism of reveling in the black failures and defeats of one's homeland.

Unlike Russia's readers, those in the West do not seem to have lost their appetite for *chernookha*, as long as it is about Russia. However, Pelevin's criticisms of his countrymen, that they are locked into a bug-like scramble for existence, might equally easily be leveled at the West. Unnoticed and unheralded, most Russians of today are chasing the same petty, material goals — to make a living, to get the kids into college, to replace the TV or hang better wallpaper, to squeeze in a quick vacation — while being

To be sure, this kind of life is hopelessly bourgeois, of precisely the sort that has always driven intellectuals of the avant-garde to a fury; however, after all that Russians have endured — and inflicted on themselves — this century, that they can once again be vilified as bourgeois is both a compliment and something of a miracle.

Anthony Olcott, professor of Russian literature and co-director of Colgate University's Moscow Study Group, wrote this for The Washington Post.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

BEST SELLERS

The New York Times
This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on list are not necessarily consecutive.

FICTION

| Title | Weeks on List | Last Week's Pos. |
|--|---------------|------------------|
| 1 THE STREET LAWYER, by John Grisham | 1 | 6 |
| 2 PARADISE, by Tim McEwan | 2 | 10 |
| 3 SANDORA, by Anne Rice | 3 | 38 |
| 4 COLD MOUNTAIN, by Charles Francis | 4 | 38 |
| 5 BLOOD WORK, by Michael Connelly | 5 | 2 |
| 6 MEMOIRS OF A GISHIA, by Arthur Golden | 6 | 19 |
| 7 BLACK AND BLUE, by Anna Quindlen | 7 | 4 |
| 8 THRILL, by Jackie Collins | 8 | 4 |
| 9 MIRACLE CURE, by Michael Palmer | 9 | 15 |
| 10 GUILTY PLEASURES, by Lawrence Sanders | 10 | 3 |
| 11 SUDDEN MISCHIEF, by Robert B. Parker | 11 | 1 |
| 12 NUMBERED ACCOUNT, by Christopher Reich | 12 | 5 |
| 13 THE MARK OF THE ASSASSIN, by Daniel Silva | 13 | 1 |
| 14 FEAR NOTHING, by Dean Kooten | 14 | 9 |
| 15 THE CAT WHO SANG FOR THE BIRDS, by Lilian Jackson Braun | 15 | 7 |

NONFICTION

| | | |
|--|----|-----|
| 1 TALKING TO HEAVEN, by James Van Praag | 1 | 12 |
| 2 TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, by Mitch Albom | 2 | 23 |
| 3 ANGELA'S ASHES, by Frank McCourt | 3 | 40 |
| 4 MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL, by John Berneri | 4 | 13 |
| 5 SPIN CYCLE, by Howard Kurtz | 5 | 2 |
| 6 THE LONG HARD ROAD OUT OF HELL, by Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss | 6 | 5 |
| 7 THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO HORSES, by Monty Roberts | 7 | 32 |
| 8 INTO THIN AIR, by Jon Krakauer | 8 | 7 |
| 9 THE MILLIONAIRE NEXT DOOR, by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko | 9 | 62 |
| 10 TITANIC: Legacy of the World's Greatest Ocean Liner, by Susan Wells | 10 | 8 |
| 11 THE PERFECT STORM, by Sebastian Junger | 11 | 42 |
| 12 CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD: Book I, by Neale Donald Walsch | 12 | 67 |
| 13 JAMES CAMERON'S TITANIC, by Ed W. Marsh | 13 | 8 |
| 14 THE RAPE OF NANKING, by Iris Chang | 14 | 9 |
| 15 JACKIE AFTER JACKIE, by Christopher Andersen | 15 | 5 |
| 16 SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, by Sarah Ban Breathnach | 16 | 103 |
| 17 DON'T WORRY, MAKE MONEY, by Richard Carlson | 17 | 14 |
| 18 MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray | 18 | 230 |
| 19 EAT RIGHT 4 YOUR TYPE, by Peter D'Adamo with Celeste Wiley | 19 | 3 |



TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited for:

The production of a natural history documentary about recently sighted merlion-manatees.

Tender No. : STB/FOO/69/98 Tender Box No: 1

Closing Date and Time: 3rd April 12 noon.

Production companies are invited to tender for the making of a documentary about recently sighted merlion-manatees off Singapore's Southern Islands. Proposed treatments should include actual footage of the animals in their natural habitat.

The documentary is intended to encourage tourism to Singapore and should therefore focus on the inquisitive and friendly nature of the animals, and their uncanny resemblance to Singapore's mythical Merlion. From a natural history perspective, treatments should also focus on the evolution of the animal and the implications of its surprising appearance in Singapore waters last month.

Tender submission must include details on recommended visual style and a detailed budget breakdown. Company credentials and portfolio are to be included also.

Tenders Documents can be collected at the STB Tender Office before noon on April 1st.

Bruce Lundvall: The Master of Blue Note

By Mike Zwerin
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Bruce Lundvall, president of Blue Note Records, says "jazz can make money if you are very very careful to keep your overhead low."

A staff of only 11 deals with a roster of approximately 25 artists, each releasing at least an album a year. And then there are all of the collections, best-ofs, and boxes repackaged and reissued from their large catalogue.

Lundvall is one of the jazz world's most respected voices and Blue Note will be celebrating its 60th birthday this year. This is Lundvall's 37th year as an executive in the recording business, his 13th as president of Blue Note and it just keeps getting better and better.

The catalogue includes '60s soul-jazz people like Brother Jack McDuff, Big John Patton and Stanley Turrentine; bebop by Thelonious Monk, Lee Morgan ("The Sidewinder" was a surprise hit for Blue Note) and Bud Powell, and the free improvisations of Ornette Coleman, Andrew Hill, Sam Rivers and others.

The phone can ring more than 11 times before one of the 11 picks it up. And then it might be picked up by a computer with a Brooklyn accent. The downstairs lobby is a corridor leading to one slow and clanky elevator operated by a human being.

Lundvall's corner office overlooks the busy and centrally located intersection of 23rd Street and Park Avenue South. His walls are covered with black



Lundvall: Keep the overhead low.

and white blowups of musicians, including one of Zoot Sims with "play better" in a cartoon bubble above his head. Once, when Zoot was in the hinterlands playing with a spectacularly bad local rhythm section, he turned around in the middle of a tune and gave the drummer some practical advice. "Play better," he said.

The folklore is packed with Zoot Sims stories, and when an interviewer asked Lundvall where he thought jazz was heading these days, he laughed recalling that after having been asked more or less the same question, Zoot replied: "Around the corner to Jim and

Andy's bar" — a musicians' hangout to which Zoot himself often headed.

"The trouble is that there is just not room for all the qualified new players looking to record," Lundvall said, serious now. "Even artists with fairly major names. There are too many piano players at the moment, for example. Blue Note has two major players from Cuba alone — Gonzalo Rubalcaba and Chucho Valdez. Both of them are monsters."

"One thing you have to remember is that it's like — I hear it from young players all the time — Bird is still alive. In a certain sense, everyone who ever played is still alive. All of the young players are still competing with Bird. In other words, not just with their peers. They are competing with the past. If the past is recorded, then it's still alive."

"The wonderful thing about this music is that it is forever. When you make a jazz record with a credible artist, it will sell something in every part of the world. And if you make the right choices, then 5, 10, 20 years from now you can reissue them. We are creating future catalogue right now with our new releases. And our catalogue is the most valuable asset we have. It's over 50 percent of our business. It's like an annuity."

Blue Note was founded in 1939 by Alfred Lion who left his native Berlin just in time. Lion loved boogie woogie piano and he recorded Albert Ammons and Meade (Lux) Lewis at his own expense. He was joined by his childhood friend and fellow Berliner Francis Wolff the same year.

Recording engineer Rudy Van Gelder joined up in 1953. They took early

advantage of the LP format which allowed for longer solos than 78 RPMs.

The partners would cast their recordings by hiring musicians as they climbed up the stairs at 4 A.M. after playing four sets at Birdland. Then they all went out to Van Gelder's studio in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. They knew the music and the people who played it, and they knew that most of the musicians were just getting warmed up close to dawn after four sets.

They changed combos and leaders often. They knew who liked to play together and who was hot lately. The musicians could play whatever they liked however they wanted to. In this way the catalogue grew so formidable that people would buy a Blue Note record regardless of who was on it. (Wolff's jacket photographs were striking.)

After 10 years of changing ownership and general floundering, Lundvall and his consulting producer, Michael Cusuna, revived promotion and began to sign new artists again in 1985.

A wise signer, Lundvall is an imposing, gray-bearded, 62-year-old man who looked extremely proud dropping a long list of impressive new names he had brought to Blue Note's roster — Bobby McFerrin, Dianne Reeves, Joe Lovano, Jacky Terrasson and Michel Petrucci, for starters. He shuffled through piles of folders on his desk to make sure he wasn't forgetting anybody.

Lundvall is hands-on. He has ultimate responsibility for signing all contracts. Three nights a week he's out in the clubs. "It's simple," he explained. "I'm a fan." As simple as that.



Marc Jacobs's silk cashmere sleeveless top and felt skirt.

'Cuckolds': Restoration and a Rebirth

By Sheridan Morley
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Restoration comedies frequently are revived, at least by those of our surviving subsidized companies that can yet afford them; but they very seldom are totally reborn. That miracle, however, is precisely what has now happened to Edward Ravenscroft's 1681 "The London Cuckolds" on the Lyttelton stage at the National Theatre.

In his National debut as rewriter and director, Terry Johnson ("Dead Funny," "Insignificance" and "Hysteria") has taken one of the longer-lost satires of the late 17th century and reworked it as a wondrous farce, one that could well be retitled "No Sex Please — We're History."

Take three beautiful wives, three ludicrous husbands, a rake and assorted other Londoners of the period, and have them open the evening with a long, lascivious dance routine that leaves us in no doubt that bed and bawd are to be the main order of the evening.

At a time when all too many comedies of this and other periods are hauled out of shape and original meaning to accommodate modern susceptibilities of feminism or other political correctness of the moment, the joy of Johnson's production is that it leaves Ravenscroft uncensored in all his incorrect glory.

The director has drawn energetic and brilliant performances from a large cast, not least Caroline Quentin of, suitably enough, the TV sitcom "Men

Behaving Badly," and by taking this complex plot of mismatched marriage at a cracking pace, Johnson achieves an exuberantly physical, knockabout sexual satire of betrayal and bedroom confusion that shoots thousands of volts through a long-neglected and sometimes creaky script.

Were Ben Travers or Ray Cooney to have lived three centuries ago, this is what they would have written, but Johnson's genius is to bring out an Ayckbourn side to the play as well, so that in among the laughs we get some thoughtful asides on the age-old battle of the sexes in a then very male-dominant society.

Thirty years after Roy Dotrice pioneered the marathon solo performance, Michael Williams is back in "Brief Lives" (at the Duchess) as John

Aubrey, the 17th-century antiquarian, magpie collector, eccentric and gossip first brought to television and then stage by the adapter-director Patrick Garland. For two hours, and indeed the interval during which he nods off still on stage, Aubrey reminisces about the bedroom exploits of Sir Walter Raleigh, the odd jawbones of Sir Thomas More and the sexual habits of the court circa 1680, all the while as if muttering away to himself.

Giggling, spluttering, coughing, whispering, John Aubrey seems to have total recall of everyone he has ever met or insulted. This is the private life of a born diarist whose insights into the people and places of his long lifetime tell us far more than any history book of the period.

But where Dotrice was angry and abrasive and abusive, Williams is too often merely cozy and clubby, though he nicely conveys a man whose brain is now running faster than his body; some of the energy seems therefore to have drifted out of Garland's hugely intelligent and evocative scripting of a lost world of Elizabethan gossip.

Currently celebrating its 15th year with no subsidy of any kind, the tiny but enterprising Man in the Moon pub theater at the foot of the King's Road, Chelsea, is reviving the first major AIDS play, Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart," originally seen over here with Martin Sheen at the Royal Court in 1986. Yet this is no period piece; it is a still sadly topical account of AIDS victims and the constant uneasiness of the establishment in deciding how best to treat them politically and socially as well as medically.

A great cry of journalistic and dramatic rage, it indicts President Reagan and Mayor Ed Koch of New York for giving too little and too late to a gay community already beginning to be decimated.

This is still a heartrending script, and it is that sense of rage and despair that gives a raw play its tremendous energy and emotional depth. John Guerrasio as the crusader, Warren Katz as his straight lawyer brother and Monica Ernesto as the paralyzed doctor are all superb in Richard Bridge's taut production.

"Kat and the Kings" (Vaudeville) is the small-scale South African musical about the hotel porters turning themselves into a close-harmony cabaret group by night. I raved about it at the Tricycle last summer and see no reason to alter that enthusiasm now.

Skirt and Sweater, Stylish and Simple

By Suzy Menkes
International Herald Tribune

NEW YORK — Just as the 1980s were defined by the power suit, a key fashion combo has emerged in the 1990s: the sweater and skirt. How a designer handles those simple pieces — the proportions, the textures, the colors and the discreet details — is the benchmark of modern style.

And they don't come much more stylish than Marc Jacobs.

The collection that the designer sent out at the end of a long day of New York fall shows on Monday was the quintessence of cool. It was brief,

ite urban gray, with a squirt of raspberry. The rest was a play on fabrics, with a gossamer-light sweater balanced by a thickly felted skirt, a quilted body warmer with a filmy skirt or a panel of sheer organza inserted in loden tweed. The result? Nice wearable clothes, with the inevitable long gray skirts and the occasional surprise of a caped tunic or culotte dress.

The arrival of the cutting-edge British designer Hussein Chalayan at Tse cashmere suggested a revolution. But, in fact, the show was an evolution, as Chalayan made his signature fragile, bound-arm silhouette and geometric cut-outs commercial. Double-faced cashmere, a strong New York trend, made for hefty and boxy tailoring. But with knitwear, the show achieved a moment of grace, when Chalayan gave his high-rise funnel necklines and elongated sleeves a light-handed twist, by edging them with gossamer-light wisps of mohair at neck and wrist. And the show closed on a high note with a pair of black coats with hands tucked into slender thigh pockets.

Fashion's other litmus test of the season is a designer take on the dress. For Carolina Herrera that was an evening story, as graphic embroidery inspired by the new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, illuminated slender evening gowns. For day, sporty ease was the story, with long sweeping coats worn over skirts, dresses and pants, the most luxurious in pashmina wool or with a sheer track-suit stripe.

When Isabel Toledo sent out a plain and perfect navy jersey dress with tiny tucks wrinkling across the stomach, you felt the familiar mix of admiration and exasperation. Why can't all Toledo's clothes be like that dress — rather than the artistically tortured garments in which pants have an ugly focus on a wide gusset or dresses have geometric circles blown out of the sides. Toledo's creative energy is admirable and some of her ideas, like cape-shouldered tops, are charming. But by the measure of modernity, the collection was low on the simple perfection of that plain sweater and skirt.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Lose it
5. Former NATO Mediterranean headquarters
10. Illegal block
14. Smooth-tongued
15. Pursuer of the Pleiades
16. — erectus
17. Polaris's defense
18. Disappearing phone features
19. "Mrs. Bridge" novelist Connell

DOWN

2. Kind of list
3. "My winner" Hagen
4. Knucklehead
6. Op. —
7. Deep sleep
8. 1975 song from "A Chorus Line"
9. — monde (society)
10. Rated NC-17
11. "Up Where We Belong," for one
12. Something (a wow)
13. Avian chatterbox
14. Entry blank datum: Abbr.
15. Charity's calculation
16. Thomas Gray work
17. Actress — May Oliver

1828 trademark song for Ruth Ellis
23 Crammers' concerns
24 Ramakrishna's title
26 For example
27 Fresno-to-L.A. dir.
28 Succumbs
29 Unbalanced
30 Restless, to Rachmaninoff
31 University of Delaware mascot
32 Less severe
33 A "fine" place?
41 Tarzan's cowboy Lincoln

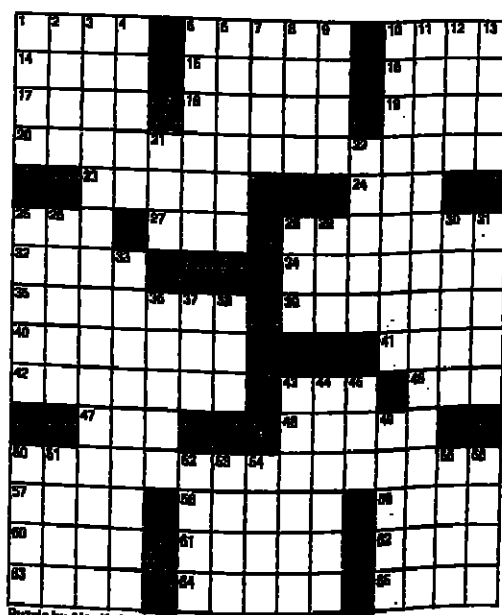
42 Kind of list
43 "My winner" Hagen
44 Knucklehead
46 Op. —
47 Deep sleep
48 1975 song from "A Chorus Line"
49 — monde (society)
50 Rated NC-17
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56 Thomas Gray work
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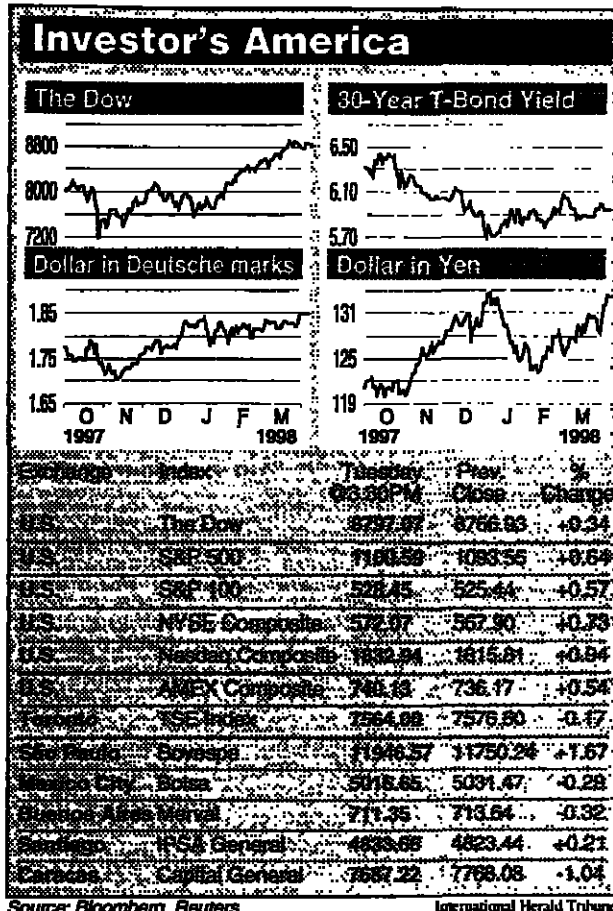
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THE AMERICAS



Very briefly:

- Gibson Greetings Inc. will cut 480 jobs, send more work to outside contractors and invest as much as \$35 million to upgrade its computer systems to try to improve profit. The greeting-card company also will take a \$26.1 million first-quarter charge.
- Toyota Motor Corp. is planning a \$500 million expansion of its Indiana plant by building a pickup truck assembly factory. The expansion will add 1,000 jobs.
- Chrysler Corp. and General Motors Corp. are considering selling their joint-venture parts unit, New Venture Gear Inc., to help the business attract other customers and to cut Chrysler's expenses.
- McKesson Corp. will be the primary supplier of drugs and consumer health and beauty products to American Pharmacy Owners Association members under a five-year accord valued at more than \$1 billion.
- Boston Properties Inc., owned by Mortimer Zuckerman, and two partners won the bidding for the right to buy the last two development sites in New York's Times Square with an offer of \$330 million.
- U.S.-China Industrial Exchange Inc. plans to reorganize through job cuts and management salary reductions. The U.S. health-care company, which provides sales and consulting services in China to U.S. corporations, reported a 1997 net loss of \$4.6 million.

AT&T Scraps Unlimited Net Access

NEW YORK — AT&T Corp. said Tuesday it would no longer allow customers unlimited Internet access for a flat monthly fee of \$19.95, in the latest industry move to curb the onslaught of users straining the global network.

Starting May 1, AT&T will charge 99 cents for every hour people spend on-line after 150 hours of monthly use, in addition to the \$19.95 fee. AT&T has 1.2 million Internet customers.

Dollar Rises As Outlook Sours in Japan

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against the yen Tuesday as the failure of a Japanese government plan to bolster the stock market persuaded investors the country could not avert a recession.

"The dollar will grind higher against the yen" as confidence fades that the governing party's 16 trillion yen (\$120 billion) plan to stimulate the economy will succeed, said Ken Nixon, a currency salesman at Svenska Handelsbanken in New York.

In 3 P.M. trading, the dollar rose to 133.130 yen, compared with 132.065 yen late Monday. But it slipped to 1.8480 Deutsche marks from 1.8482 DM. Government purchases of stocks helped the Nikkei stock average rise 1.6 percent Tuesday.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

day to finish the fiscal year at 16,527.17. But the governing Liberal Democratic Party, as part of its stimulus plan, wanted it to end the fiscal year higher than 18,003.00, where it was a year ago. The lower close means many Japanese companies lost money on their stock holdings.

"Because of the end of the fiscal year and the failure of the Nikkei to go above 18,000, there's good incentive to take the yen lower," said Ed Garston, a currency analyst at the market research company I.D.E.A.

When foreign-exchange regulations are lifted Wednesday, Japanese investors will also be encouraged to shun record low interest rates at home and seek higher returns abroad, analysts said.

In Germany, the expectation that interest rates may be on hold for the time being is favoring the dollar. The Bundesbank council member Edgar Meister said countries that hoped to join economic and monetary union and had high short-term interest rates should bring them more in line with those in Germany after May.

Short-term lending rates in those countries are expected to converge in the months before Jan. 1, when the euro is to be introduced. Germany's benchmark securities repurchase rate is 3.3 percent, while Spain's benchmark rate is 4.5 percent and Italy's benchmark discount rate is 5.5 percent.

Against other major currencies, the dollar fell to 6.1905 French francs from 6.1912 francs and to 1.5220 Swiss francs from 1.5235 francs. The pound fell to 1.6715 from 1.6780.

Wall Street Gains on Steady Rates

NEW YORK — Stocks rose Tuesday, bolstered by the Federal Reserve Board's decision to leave U.S. interest rates steady and an economic report that showed growing consumer caution.

The Dow Jones industrial average was 53.31 points higher in late trading at 8,837.43, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index was 11.09 points higher at 1,104.64. Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 2-to-1 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

The stock market's ascent was reversing four days of losses.

"There are a multitude of currents that are leading to higher stock prices," said Philip Schettini, a portfolio manager at Loomis Sayles & Co. Most importantly, he said, "we're having decent growth without signs of inflationary pressure."

Federal Reserve policymakers left the benchmark interest rate on overnight bank loans unchanged at their meeting Tuesday in a wager that Asia's financial crisis will cut into export growth and cool an otherwise resilient economy.

Signs that consumers also expected the economy to slow somewhat came from the Conference Board, which said its consumer confidence index fell in March from a 29-year high in February.

Such consumer caution bolsters the stock market, whose investors have been concerned that the econ-

omy was growing so fast that it would revive inflation.

But some analysts said they expected the central bank to raise interest rates when they met next, because there has been little concrete evidence that the U.S. economy is slowing.

"For now the Fed is just sitting on a park bench waiting to see what happens with Asia," said Joel Naroff, an economist at First Union Corp. But he warned, "this is not a prescription for people to be in a comfort zone."

U.S. STOCKS

Nonetheless, the steady course on interest rates helped send bond prices higher. The price of the benchmark 30-year issue rose 17/32 point in late trading to 102 18/32, taking the yield down to 5.94 percent from 5.98 percent Monday.

Technology issues led the stock market higher. The Nasdaq composite index rose 14.87 points in

To Our Readers

Because of the seven-hour time difference between New York and Paris this week, the U.S. stock tables, the U.S. futures and some other items in this edition reflect early prices. This change is necessary to meet distribution requirements.

late trading to 1,833.57.

Advanced Micro Devices rose 2 15/16 to 29 1/2 after an investment firm reported that the company had significantly improved its number of usable K6 chips produced in the first quarter. The K6 chip is a rival to Intel Corp.'s Pentium II microprocessor.

Intel was up 5/16 at 77 11/16.

But tobacco stocks fell after a leading senator proposed a bill that would deny cigarette makers key legal protections they seemed to have won in an agreement last summer to settle most health-related lawsuits.

Philip Morris lost 1 5/16 to 41 11/16, and RJR Nabisco Holdings fell 1 9/16 to 32 3/4.

More Money in Funds

After several months of more cautious and conservative investing, mutual-fund shareholders and managers are growing bold again. The New York Times reported.

According to industry groups that track funds' cash flows, the amount of new money invested in several types of aggressive stock funds in the United States and abroad rose steadily in February and March as a surge in technology stocks led American share prices to record highs.

According to data released Monday by the Investment Company Institute, a fund trade group, equity mutual funds took in a total of \$24.2 billion in February, nearly two-thirds more than in January.

Motorola Says It's Studying Reorganizing

NEW YORK — Motorola Inc. said Tuesday its management and board were discussing a possible reorganization of the company as the giant electronics concern tried to improve the way it sold its products.

Published reports said Motorola was planning to combine its six businesses into two divisions. They said discussions were under way but that a decision would be weeks away.

The spokesman said the company was looking at ways to "combine our technical competencies in such a way that we help our customers."

Motorola, which warned last month that its first-quarter earnings would be below analysts' expectations, has been selling businesses and cutting costs in recent months.

"The spokesman said the current plans under consideration would be separate from those moves."

"It doesn't mean that we are exiting any businesses," he said.

Motorola shares rose, apparently in response to the announcement, gaining \$3.0625 to \$60.50.

Money Sings as Radio Embraces 'Pay for Play'

NEW YORK — In January, a radio station in Portland, Oregon, and a record label in Los Angeles struck an unusual arrangement. The record company, Flip/Interscope, agreed to pay the radio station, KUFO-FM, about \$5,000 to play a song by one of the label's "emerging" acts 50 times over five weeks.

The song, "Counterfeit," is by Limp Bizkit, a hip-hop-influenced heavy-metal band whose music the station initially considered a little too intense for its audience. Money changed minds, making KUFO the first rock station known to use one of the most widely debated revenue-raising tactics sweeping the American radio industry this year: pay for play.

To some, pay for play seems suspiciously reminiscent of payola, the scandal-mired practice of past de-

cades when reigning rock disc jockeys such as Alan Freed were threatened after they admitted having accepted money from record labels in exchange for spinning certain songs. But there is a difference between payola and pay for play.

Laws against payola, according to the radio regulators at the Federal Communications Commission, protect broadcasters more specifically than the public, prohibiting employees from receiving money or gifts under the table in exchange for sneaking records onto playlists. Pay for play occurs when a station receives the money up front and discloses to listeners at the time of broadcast that the song or block of programming involved has been paid for. This approach is legal, like television's "infomercials."

Representatives of CBS Radio, one of the country's biggest station owners, have been talking to country-music record labels about a

number of collaborations, including paying CBS to play a song four times a month on a syndicated program, according to record-company executives. A spokesman for CBS declined to comment.

Jacob Communications Inc., which owns 194 stations, is considering similar collaborations among its country stations, record labels and stores. Jaye Albright, the company's director of country programming, said the idea was only in its early stages.

In addition, several independent production companies have been approaching labels about producing half-hour or hour-long paid music programs. In the 1980s the Federal Communications Commission lifted its ban on advertisements longer than 18 minutes.

"It is permissible for a station to accept money in exchange for broadcasting something," said Charles Kelley, the enforcement chief in the

commission's mass-media division. "It's just that they need to announce that they're doing it in some manner that is clear to their audience."

Despite this, record labels are loath to talk about pay for play. Radio-promotions executives at Time Warner Inc., Sony Corp., Universal Pictures and PolyGram NV all declined to respond to queries on the practice or on whether they had an interest in it.

Tom Taylor, editor of M Street Daily, a radio newsletter, said, "I find it startling that it's emerging, and at the same time it's logical that it would emerge at a time when the radio industry is reinventing itself and its relationships with record companies."

"If you go back to the late '60s and '70s, record companies routinely allocated a lot of their ad budget to radio stations. Now the record business is putting its marketing money elsewhere."

AMEX

Tuesday's 3 P.M.
The 300 most traded stocks of the day.
The Associated Press.

| Stock | Price | High | Low | Open | Close |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| IBM | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 |
| Microsoft | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| Apple | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 |
| Oracle | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Sun | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| HP | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Intel | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| AMD | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| Motorola | 60.50 | 60.50 | 60.50 | 60.50 | 60.50 |
| IBM | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 |
| Microsoft | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 | 40.00 |
| Apple | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 | 35.00 |
| Oracle | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Sun | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 | 20.00 |
| HP | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| Intel | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 | 10.00 |
| AMD | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 | 8.00 |
| Motorola | 60.50 | 60.50 | 60.50 | 60.50 | 60.50 |

U. S. STOCK MARKET DIARY

April 1, 1998
High Low Open Close

| Index | High | Low | Open | Close |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dow Jones | 8837.43 | 8837.43 | 8837.43 | 8837.43 |
| S&P 500 | 1104.64 | 1104.64 | 1104.64 | 1104.64 |
| Nasdaq | 1833.57 | 1833.57 | 1833.57 | 1833.57 |
| AMEX | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 |
| 30 Bonds | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 |
| 10 Utilities | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 |
| 10 Industrials | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 |

INTERNATIONAL FUTURES

High Low Open Close

| Contract | High | Low | Open | Close |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Orange Juice (CNY) | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Grains | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Metals | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Oil | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Gold | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Silver | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Platinum | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Palladium | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Japanese Yen | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| British Pound | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Canadian Dollar | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Swiss Franc | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| German Mark | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| French Franc | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Italian Lira | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Spanish Peseta | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Portuguese Escudo | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Irish Punt | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Greek Drachma | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Polish Zloty | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Czech Koruna | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovak Koruna | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Hungarian Forint | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Romanian Leu | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Bulgarian Lev | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Serbian Dinar | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Croatian Kuna | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovenian Tolar | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Czech Republic | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovak Republic | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Hungary | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Romania | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Bulgaria | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Serbia | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Croatia | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovenia | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

STOCK INDEXES

High Low Open Close

| Index | High | Low | Open | Close |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Dow Jones | 8837.43 | 8837.43 | 8837.43 | 8837.43 |
| S&P 500 | 1104.64 | 1104.64 | 1104.64 | 1104.64 |
| Nasdaq | 1833.57 | 1833.57 | 1833.57 | 1833.57 |
| AMEX | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 | 124.00 |
| 30 Bonds | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 |
| 10 Utilities | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 |
| 10 Industrials | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 | 102 18/32 |

COMMODITY INDEXES

High Low Open Close

| Index | High | Low | Open | Close |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Oil | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Gold | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Silver | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Platinum | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Palladium | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Japanese Yen | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| British Pound | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Canadian Dollar | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Swiss Franc | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| German Mark | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| French Franc | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Italian Lira | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Spanish Peseta | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Portuguese Escudo | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Irish Punt | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Greek Drachma | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Polish Zloty | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Czech Koruna | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovak Koruna | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Hungarian Forint | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Romanian Leu | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Bulgarian Lev | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Serbian Dinar | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Croatian Kuna | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovenian Tolar | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Czech Republic | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovak Republic | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Hungary | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Romania | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Bulgaria | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Serbia | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Croatia | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Slovenia | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

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Herald Tribune
115 N. W. 10th St., Miami, FL 33136

Battle to Buy Rolls May Not Be Over Yet

BMW Victory in Doubt as VW Raises Bid

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

MUNICH — Bayerische Motoren Werke AG's apparent victory in the battle for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd. was thrown open to question Tuesday as reports that Volkswagen AG had raised its bid and that other carmakers might make offers for the British luxury-car concern.

The German daily newspaper Bild said Volkswagen had raised its bid for Rolls to 1.7 billion Deutsche marks (\$920 million) from 1.5 billion DM. Guenther Scherlis, a VW spokesman, declined to confirm the report, which did not cite sources.

The owner of Rolls, Vickers PLC, said Monday it had chosen to sell the unit to BMW for £340 million (\$570 million). Vickers said it could not discuss bids with any rival suitors during an estimated three- to four-week period of exclusive talks with BMW, although bidders could send an unsolicited revised offer for Rolls-Royce.

But the chairman of BMW, Bernd Pischetsrieder, said Tuesday that other companies could make fresh bids for Rolls-Royce before Vickers shareholders met in mid-May to approve the sale of the British carmaker.

"I cannot rule out that others make further, higher bids," Mr. Pischetsrieder said. "It is possible."

But he said he did not believe those bids would sway shareholders to defy the Vickers board.

Mr. Pischetsrieder said, "There have been historically hardly any decisions where shareholders made a decision different from the board."

A BMW spokesman said the company would not raise its bid. A spokesman for Vickers declined to

comment on whether it had received a new bid from Volkswagen.

Brig Daniels, a spokeswoman for Vickers, said, "We will do whatever is in the best interests of our shareholders. The agreement in principle with BMW is an excellent deal."

Meanwhile, a group of private investors, led by Rolls-Royce car enthusiasts eager to keep the carmaker in British hands, has also said it might seek to top BMW's bid.

BMW promised to preserve the British character of Rolls-Royce if it acquired the luxury carmaker, seeking to ease fears that the venerable Rolls image would be diminished by that of its German parent.

Mr. Pischetsrieder said BMW, which already makes engines and other parts for Rolls-Royce, was best positioned to make Rolls more competitive and increase its sales.

He also again threatened to stop supplying parts to Rolls-Royce if another company bought it, greatly forcing up the cost of producing its cars.

BMW's purchase of Rolls-Royce would be its second foray into the British car market. It took over Rover Group in 1994 in a transaction that has yet to pay off for BMW.

BMW announced Tuesday that Rover had a loss of 260 million DM in 1997, little changed from its loss of 279 million DM the year before.

BMW plans to keep Rolls-Royce's production site in Crewe, England, as well as its work force. The company said it would have to spend about \$1.6 billion over the next 10 years to increase Rolls production to 6,000 cars a year from the current 1,900.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

European Banker of the Year 1997



A GOOD YEAR — Marcel Ospel, left, chief executive of Swiss Bank Corp., and Mathis Cubatlavetta, head of Union Bank of Switzerland, chatting Tuesday in Frankfurt, where they shared the "European Banker of the Year" award.

Top Court Annuls EU Merger Ruling

BRUSSELS — The European Union's top court overruled the European Commission on Tuesday by annulling a merger decision for the first time.

The European Court of Justice scrapped the commission's 1993 decision that set terms on Kali & Salz GmbH's purchase of MdK, a German potash producer.

But at the same time, the Luxembourg-based court unequivocally affirmed the authority of the EU antitrust watchdog to ban mergers that would leave the market at the mercy of a few companies.

The court annulled the MdK decision on the grounds that the commission had not proved that the acquisition would give Kali and Societe Commerciale des Potasses et d'Azote of France joint control of the potash market that would sig-

nificantly impede competition. Kali, which is controlled by BASF AG, and SCPA together controlled 60 percent of production at the time.

Some antitrust lawyers did not think the ruling would lead to a wave of merger challenges, saying that the Kali case was highly unusual because the conditions had affected third parties.

SCPA and France filed the suit because the commission forced Kali & Salz in 1993 to terminate an export cartel it jointly controlled with SCPA and ruled that SCPA could no longer be the exclusive distributor for Kali's potash in France.

The commission has ruled on about 700 mergers and acquisitions since 1990, when it became the one-stop, fast-track agency for corporate deals affecting fair competition in the 15-nation bloc.

U.K. Retailer Wins the War For Metromail

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

LONDON — Great Universal Stores PLC won an auction for Metromail on Tuesday with a bid of \$905 million, strengthening the British retailer's position atop the U.S. marketing-database industry with its third acquisition in three years.

Great Universal Stores' purchase of Metromail, which followed a bidding war with American Business Information Inc., will give it access to the company's consumer lists for direct marketing as well as revenue from other direct marketers that buy the lists, analysts said.

"It makes them No. 1 in the U.S. in consumer data and credit information," said Richard Rater of Butterfield Securities in London.

The purchase of Metromail follows Great Universal Stores' purchase of Direct Marketing Technology Inc. of the United States last year for \$299 million and its \$1.7 billion purchase of the U.S. credit-data company Experian Inc. in 1996.

Metromail's board approved Great Universal's bid after American Business Information said it could not meet a deadline set by Metromail to prove it would offer a higher bid.

American Business Information had originally filed a suit to block the bid by Great Universal, but this was rejected by the Delaware Chancery Court. The Delaware Supreme Court has requested a hearing on the matter next Wednesday, so Metromail's purchase will not be final until then.

"They're building up consumer information — this is key," said Ken Winston, an analyst at Needham & Co. "Metromail has what is considered to be the deepest and broadest consumer database," with customers such as Procter & Gamble Co., and AT&T Corp., he added.

Metromail's biggest shareholder is its former parent, R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co., which took Metromail public in June 1996 and kept a 38 percent stake. Donnelley has agreed to sell its shares to Great Universal. Metromail posted a loss of \$8.5 million on sales of \$328.4 million last year.

Great Universal has been stepping up acquisitions lately. In addition to buying Experian, it last month made a hostile offer of \$1.6 billion for the British retail chain Argos PLC. It also has agreed to buy the French credit-information company SG2 from Societe Generale SA.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Europe

| | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|----------|
| 4700 | 5750 | 3600 | | |
| 4400 | 5500 | 3250 | | |
| 4100 | 5250 | 3000 | | |
| 3800 | 5000 | 2750 | | |
| 3500 | 4750 | 2500 | | |
| O N D J F M | O N D J F M | O N D J F M | | |
| 1997 | 1997 | 1997 | | |
| 1998 | 1998 | 1998 | | |
| Exchange | Index | Tuesday Close | Prev. Close | % Change |
| Amsterdam | AEX | 1,126.43 | 1,129.00 | +2.23 |
| Brussels | BEL-20 | 2,986.52 | 2,977.00 | +0.29 |
| Frankfurt | DAX | 5,102.95 | 5,008.78 | +1.95 |
| Copenhagen | Stock Market | 766.58 | 762.79 | +0.49 |
| Helsinki | HEX General | 4,355.81 | 4,342.71 | +0.30 |
| Oslo | OBX | 733.75 | 741.99 | -1.11 |
| London | FTSE 100 | 5,832.20 | 5,911.90 | -0.24 |
| Madrid | Stock Exchange | 888.67 | 887.50 | +0.19 |
| Milan | MIBTEL | 24,583 | 24,503 | +1.15 |
| Paris | CAC 40 | 3,875.81 | 3,800.22 | +1.99 |
| Stockholm | SX 16 | 3,889.85 | 3,880.58 | -0.02 |
| Vienna | ATX | 1,496.29 | 1,506.32 | -0.67 |
| Zurich | SPI | 4,716.64 | 4,681.33 | +0.54 |

Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

Very briefly:

- Bayerische Vereinsbank AG and Bayerische Hypothek- und Wechsel-Bank AG, which are merging into Germany's second-largest bank, said combined 1997 profit rose 9 percent to 1.71 billion Deutsche marks (\$932.4 million), reflecting their success in property financing.
- Thyssen AG and Fried. Krupp AG Hoesch-Krupp expect to complete their merger and list shares in the new company by March 1, 1999. The deal will create a German steelmaker with annual sales of 70 billion DM.
- RAO Gazprom, Russia's biggest gas producer, said the government's \$2.1 billion price tag on a 75 percent stake in the oil company RAO Rosneft was too high, but Gazprom said it had not ruled out making a bid.
- Eastern Europe and the ex-Soviet states need a massive overhaul of infrastructure to compete with Western neighbors, officials from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank and the European Investment Bank said, adding that governments alone could not foot the bill.
- Ludhroke Group PLC's plan to acquire 891 Coral betting shops from Bass PLC is to be examined by the Mergers and Monopolies Commission, which will report by July 7.
- LucasVarity PLC's 1997 pretax profit rose to \$329 million (\$551 million) from \$282 million in 1996; the British-American car parts maker said refinancing its debt had put it in a position to make acquisitions worth as much as \$1 billion.
- Monument Oil & Gas PLC plans to raise £100 million through a share offer, partly to finance expansion in Iran and Central Asia. The company's second-half profit jumped to £11.6 million from £5.5 million.
- Computacenter Services Group PLC plans to sell 25 percent of its shares on the London Stock Exchange in May in an offering that could value Britain's largest privately held information technology company at as much as £900 million.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

France's Jobless Total Slips, but Rate Remains at 12.1%

Compiled by Our Staff From Reuters

PARIS — The number of job-seekers fell in February by 7,300, to 3,026,400, but France's unemployment rate was unchanged at 12.1 percent, the Labor Ministry said Tuesday.

The February report appeared to confirm a gradual improvement that has slowly reduced the number of people unemployed and looking for work in France over the past year

and trimmed the jobless rate by four-tenths of a percentage point.

"The drop in unemployment in February is moderate, in line with the tendency seen in the past six months," said Olivier Eluere, an economist at Credit Lyonnais. "We have an economic recovery in France that allows some job-creation, but it is not strong enough to lead to a marked reduction in unemployment. I don't think we'll go below 12 per-

cent unemployment soon."

Separately, Parliament passed a bill that would cut the legal work week to 35 hours without a pay cut by 2000. Business leaders oppose the bill, saying it will lead to higher costs and job losses. Some other European countries have criticized the Socialist-backed plan as well.

The bill will be sent to the Senate, which will discuss the measure next Wednesday and is expected to pass

it. If so, it would then be signed into law by the president. (Reuters, AP)

German Job Losses Seen

The German construction industry plans to cut 70,000 jobs this year because of the sector's poor prospects, the ZDB building industry association said, according to a Reuters report from Bonn. It said 40,000 of the jobs were expected to be lost in Western Germany.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, April 1

Prices in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX Index: 1126.43

Brussels BEL-20 Index: 2986.52

Frankfurt DAX Index: 5102.95

Copenhagen Stock Market: 766.58

Helsinki HEX General: 4355.81

Oslo OBX Index: 733.75

London FTSE 100 Index: 5832.20

Madrid Stock Exchange: 888.67

Milan MIBTEL Index: 24583

Paris CAC 40 Index: 3875.81

Stockholm SX 16 Index: 3889.85

Vienna ATX Index: 1496.29

Zurich SPI Index: 4716.64

High Low Close Prev.

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Paris CAC 40 Index: 3875.81

Stockholm SX 16 Index: 3889.85

Vienna ATX Index: 1496.29

Zurich SPI Index: 4716.64

Market Closed

The stock market in Jakarta was closed Tuesday for a holiday.

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX Index: 1126.43

Brussels BEL-20 Index: 2986.52

Frankfurt DAX Index: 5102.95

Copenhagen Stock Market: 766.58

Helsinki HEX General: 4355.81

Oslo OBX Index: 733.75

London FTSE 100 Index: 5832.20

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Oslo OBX Index: 733.75

London FTSE 100 Index: 5832.20

Madrid Stock Exchange: 888.67

Milan MIBTEL Index: 24583

Paris CAC 40 Index: 3875.81

Stockholm SX 16 Index: 3889.85

Vienna ATX Index: 1496

Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.
The Associated Press

Continued on Page 16

صیغتا من الاول

ASIA/PACIFIC

Thai Data Hurt Hope for Export-Led Recovery

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Bleak statistics brought a dose of reality to Thailand on Tuesday and a warning for the rest of Southeast Asia: Devalued currencies do not guarantee an export-led recovery.

Although the Thai baht had plunged more than 50 percent against the dollar, exports in January dropped by 7.9 percent, the Bank of Thailand said.

The central bank reported the drop in exports even as it ordered tougher accounting standards for Thai banks that will force them to raise capital reserves.

"What happened to this story about cheaper goods increasing exports?" said Guonan Ma, head of Asia-Pacific economic research at Salomon Smith Barney. "These numbers show that the economic depression may be deeper than the market thinks."

Mr. Ma said the statistics confirmed that declining imports and weak exports were plaguing economies across Southeast Asia despite deep currency devaluations. But he said that the three-day Chinese New Year, which fell in January, may have exaggerated the statistical impact.

Other economists raised fears that exports from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines would face difficulties similar to those shown in Thailand.

The prime problem facing most of the region's manufacturers is access to the loans necessary to finance production of export goods. Much of Asia's exports consist of products made from imported raw materials and components that are assembled with the help of low-cost labor.

As a collapse of confidence in the region started to spread last July, pulling down currencies and inspiring capital flight, interest rates were progressively raised to keep money from leaving Asia's teetering banks.

For months, Thailand's interbank interest rate has hovered around 20 percent, most of the country's financial companies have been shut by the government, and many banks will not give loans for fear of losing more money.

On Tuesday, the central bank announced tough definitions for bad and substandard loans that will make it even harder for banks to make new loans. The new definitions bring Thai banks closer to international standards but will force them to raise their capital reserves.

Analysts say that Thai banks may

need to raise as much as 300 billion baht (\$7.9 billion) in the next three years to meet the central bank's new nonperforming-loan definition and get fully back into trade financing.

Another brake on the easing of credit was applied hours before the central bank announcement by Moody's Investor Services Inc., which downgraded five Thai banks.

The downgrade reflected increased pressures as loan delinquencies rose and the freezing of domestic credit markets forced banks to seek outside investors, Moody's said.

The downgrade will make it more expensive for Bangkok Bank PCL, Krung Thai Bank PCL, Thai Farmers Bank PCL, Siam Commercial Bank PCL and Bank of Ayudhya PCL to raise new capital. Moody's has already given all of the banks — and Thailand itself — a junk-bond status, a rating normally reserved for risky corporate ventures.

"The whole financial sector has put obstacles in the way of trade, so there will be caps on exports for the next few months until solutions are found," said James Walker, chief economist for Credit Lyonnais Global Emerging Markets.

The solution for building exports

will have to come in large part, Mr. Walker said, through credit extended by export banks outside the region.

Thailand recently received credit guarantees from the export-import banks of Japan and the United States.

When Asian leaders come to London next week, they are almost certain to suggest that the European Union extend similar trade financing assistance, Mr. Walker said.

"Over the next few months, these financing measures should work their way through to exports, and these numbers will be seen as a short-lived but nasty surprise," Mr. Walker said.

Other forces holding back the export-led recovery of the region include inflation and a lack of competitiveness, said Jan Lee, chief economist at Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp.

"Countries can only export their way out only with higher value-added products," Mr. Lee said. "In these terms, Thailand may require a five-year restructuring of the economy to get the full benefits of devaluation."

He said Thailand had failed to quickly upgrade its economy from

Japan Firms To Cut Output Of D-RAMs

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Fujitsu Ltd., Japan's largest computer maker, said Tuesday it would stop making dynamic random-access memory computer chips in Europe by 2000 to try to curb losses in its microchip businesses. Hitachi Ltd. said it was considering doing the same.

Fujitsu's plant in Durham, England, will stop making D-RAM chips — the memory chips most commonly used in personal computers — by 2000 and concentrate on more sophisticated microchips for use in consumer electronic appliances, the company said.

"We may just stay on the sidelines and wait and see in this turbulent situation, as we expanded the scope of production a little bit too much in the early 1990s," a Fujitsu spokesman said.

Hitachi said it would gradually cut output at its D-RAM plant near Munich. Both companies said the plants would shift production to more stable businesses, such as logic integrated circuits and microcontrollers, and that employment would not be affected.

The D-RAM market suffered a spectacular price collapse in 1996 and 1997, and all Japanese chipmakers incurred huge losses in the mainstay 16-megabit chip business.

Analysts say Samsung Electronics Co. of South Korea and NEC Corp. and possibly Toshiba Corp. of Japan are likely to lead the production race in next-generation 64-megabit D-RAMs.

Tsutomu Kanai, president of Hitachi, recently said that company planned to concentrate its D-RAM production in certain overseas plants and eventually phase out domestic D-RAM output.

NEC, meanwhile, said its strategy of producing D-RAMs at plants in Britain, the United States, Japan and China remained unchanged.

Fujitsu's shares closed at 1,390 yen (\$10.53) on the Tokyo Stock Exchange, up 30, while Hitachi rose 12 to 970. (Bloomberg, Reuters)

Investor's Asia

| Hong Kong Hang Seng | | Singapore Straits Times | | Tokyo Nikkei 225 | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 15000 | | 2000 | | 18250 | |
| 14000 | | 1800 | | 17500 | |
| 12500 | | 1600 | | 16750 | |
| 11000 | | 1400 | | 16000 | |
| 9500 | | 1200 | | 15250 | |
| 8000 | | 1000 | | 14500 | |
| O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D | | O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D | | O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D | |
| 1997 | | 1997 | | 1997 | |
| Exchange | Index | Tuesday Close | Prev. Close | % Change | |
| Hong Kong | Hang Seng | 11,518.58 | 11,503.76 | +0.13 | |
| Singapore | Straits Times | 1,628.18 | 1,648.56 | -1.18 | |
| Sydney | All Ordinaries | 2,744.20 | 2,741.00 | +0.12 | |
| Tokyo | Nikkei 225 | 16,527.17 | 16,593.84 | -0.40 | |
| Kuala Lumpur | Composite | 719.52 | 722.98 | -0.48 | |
| Bangkok | SET | 458.11 | 465.08 | -1.29 | |
| Seoul | Composite Index | 461.04 | 462.33 | -0.27 | |
| Taipei | Stock Market Index | 9,091.16 | 9,088.96 | +0.02 | |
| Manila | PSE | 2,238.42 | 2,273.80 | -1.56 | |
| Jakarta | Composite Index | Closed | 5,414.25 | | |
| Wellington | NZSE-40 | 2,988.27 | 2,993.12 | -0.64 | |
| Bombay | Sensitive Index | 3,892.75 | 3,897.98 | -0.13 | |

Source: Telextras

International Herald Tribune

Source: Reuters

Very briefly:

• The Bank of Japan's former chief for capital markets, Yasuyuki Yoshizawa, was charged by prosecutors with accepting 4.3 million yen (\$33,000) in the form of winning, dining and golf outings from two banks in return for confidential information, NHK news reported.

• South Korea wrapped up a \$21.8 billion bank debt extension with 123 creditor banks, which agreed to extend 97 percent of eligible foreign debt for as long as three years, removing the threat of default that has hung over the country since the end of 1997.

• Maruti Udyog Ltd., India's joint-venture carmaker with Suzuki Motor Corp., posted an increase of 27.6 percent in net profit for the year ended in March, to \$166.9 million.

• PT Gudang Garam, Indonesia's largest cigarette company, said its 1997 net profit rose 38 percent, to a record 906.81 billion rupiah (\$107.3 million), despite the nation's economic crisis.

• Hong Kong's government cut the amount of land it will release for development over the next five years by 8 percent, to 400 hectares (988 acres), following a slump in property prices.

• Japan will allow companies to open self-service gasoline stations, a move that could put as many as half of the nation's full-service gas stations out of business.

• Yaohan International Holdings Ltd. fell 76 percent, to 14.8 Hong Kong cents (1.9 U.S. cents), after shares in the troubled Hong Kong retailer resumed trading following a six-month suspension.

• Duty Free Shoppers HK Ltd., a Hong Kong retailing unit of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA, cut an unspecified number of jobs in the latest layoffs caused by the Asian slump, sources at the company said.

• The International Monetary Fund's deputy managing director, Stanley Fischer, will return to Jakarta on Thursday to work on the new terms and conditions to be attached to Indonesia's \$43 billion international aid package, an IMF official said.

Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg

SLATE: No More Freebies

Continued from Page 11

Kinsley said, "It's important to us to break even and to be a business, not someone's charity case."

To Microsoft, the move is not just philosophically important but financially necessary. Advertisers are proceeding with caution when it comes to Slate because the audience numbers remain relatively low. "It became clear that, on an ad-only basis, it wasn't going to work," said Peter Neupert, Microsoft's vice president of news and publishing.

"I didn't see it scaling big enough and the ad marketplace accepting it quickly enough to meet our objectives in terms of turning the corner," he added.

Slate and Microsoft said they had already received more than 17,000 subscription orders and hoped to reach 20,000 over the next few months.

But that number is a far cry from the 95,000 circulation enjoyed by The New Republic magazine, where Mr. Kinsley worked on and off for almost 20 years. Or, the 218,000 currently enjoyed by Harper's, where Mr. Kinsley briefly served as editor in 1981.

How much readership Slate has lost since the transition on March 9 is difficult to gauge because of the vagaries of Internet measurement. In January, when the Monica Lewinsky story first broke, the site received 270,000 visits, many from repeat readers.

The current subscriber response gets the magazine to a mere \$340,000 in revenue; Slate's annual operating costs have been estimated at \$5 million by analysts. The subscriber response is not a number that gets advertisers excited. Slate would not disclose ad revenue figures.

"We're not even talking about critical mass here," said Paula Brooks, media director at the ad agency Margeotte/Ferrin & Partners. "A magazine with 100,000 cir-

ulation is not truly viable."

Slate will now have to spend money to win new readers, just like print publications; it plans to market the magazine with ads on other sites and with targeted e-mail. And given the hurdles ahead, Rogers Weed, Slate's publisher, said he is prepared to ultimately accept defeat.

"It's very possible that the Web is just not the place for publications like Slate that have a more limited appeal," he said.

While Slate has developed a loyal following among many people in the news media and politics, some say the magazine has yet to develop real influence.

"Mike Kinsley could make the earth move with his column in The New Republic," said Stephen Smith, editor of National Journal. "He can't do that with Slate."

To gain more clout, Mr. Kinsley has to figure out how to make the new medium work for the largest possible audience: how to get people to read long pieces in a fast-moving medium that you cannot easily curl up with on the couch.

"That's our biggest problem," Mr. Kinsley said. "You have to reward people. You have to offer them things they can't get on paper to compensate."

That is why Slate offers audio poetry readings along with its featured weekly poem, film clips with some movie reviews.

And why, in its printed edition — which has a circulation in the low hundreds — Slate often reminds readers what they are missing electronically.

Slate has also tried to be more Web-specific, offering "hot links" to let readers click on interesting tangents. In an essay on Gertrude Stein, for example, readers were invited to "Click here for an excerpt from 'Lifting Belly,' a witty unpublished love poem she wrote to Alice B. Toklas."

"In print, these would have

Last Chapter At Yamaichi

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Yamaichi Securities Co., which rocked the financial world by declaring bankruptcy last year, closed its doors Tuesday, officially ending 100 years of operations and becoming the largest Japanese company ever to fail.

The firm, which closed its last 40 branches and left 3,000 people unemployed, collapsed in November under the weight of massive off-the-book losses.

to be footnotes," said Judith Shulevitz, Slate's New York editor. "But on the Web, they come off as a secondary level of discourse."

Depending on whom you talk to, Slate's move to paid subscriptions is either brave or foolhardy.

"They may make it because they have the deep pocket to wait out the market until it matures," said Stefanie Symon, the co-founder and executive editor of the Web magazine Feed, who also expects to switch to paid subscriptions eventually.

Microsoft and Slate both said they expected that bringing the magazine into the black would take patience.

Finance Firms Merged In Malaysian Shake-Up

Bloomberg News

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's central bank said that all 39 of the nation's finance companies had agreed to merge or to be acquired by their parent companies, meeting the Tuesday deadline to arrange combinations.

The central bank set the target date for consolidation three months ago in an effort to shore up finance companies against increasing bad debts and a slowing economy.

"Malaysia is anxious to avoid an industry collapse like neighboring Indonesia," Fifteen finance companies will be merged into six so-called anchor groups, the central bank said. In addition, two banking groups will acquire a stake in two other finance companies, while 14 companies will be acquired by their parents, mainly commercial banks.

"They needed an iron fist to get them together," said Chong Yoon Chou at Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Ltd. in Singapore. "One would have liked to see it initiated by the companies."

Indonesia already has shut banks, and Thailand has closed finance companies to comply with terms of emergency loans from the Inter-

national Monetary Fund.

Malaysia charted a different course. It leaned on the larger financial-services groups to absorb smaller, weaker ones, rather than shuttering any companies.

Nonperforming loans at finance companies may rise to as much as 20 percent this year, from 13.3 percent at the end of last month, said Angie Ang, an analyst at Caspian Research (Malaysia) Sdn. She did not recommend that customers buy finance companies' shares.

Even before the region's economic crisis, Malaysia wanted fewer and bigger banks and finance companies, to prepare them for stiffer competition in the future.

The six anchors are Maybank Finance Bhd., Hong Leong Finance Bhd., Public Finance Bhd., Arab-Malaysian Finance Bhd., United Merchant Finance Bhd. and the combined finance units of Diversified Resources Bhd.

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Pakistan vs. India

CRICKET For the first time in a decade, Pakistan has agreed to send a team to India for a cricket test. J. Y. Lale, secretary of the Indian cricket board, said Monday that the three-test series would begin Jan. 16. Political differences and threats by religious militants have hit cricketing relations between the two neighbors, but the two teams have played each other in one-day tournaments in both countries and in other countries. Pakistan last played, and won, a test series in India in 1986 under Imran Khan. (Reuters)

Villeneuve Plays the Blues

GRAND PRIX The world champion Jacques Villeneuve on Tuesday criticized both his car's performance and the Williams team's preparations for last Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix. Both Williams were lapped by the McLaren's in Sao Paulo. In his newspaper column, Villeneuve wrote, "I was not best pleased that my FW20 sounded like one of the new guitar pieces that I am learning, and my times confirmed my unease." (Reuters)

Austrian in Hospital

SKIING The Austrian Gunter Mader, who retired from Alpine skiing three weeks ago, will remain in hospital for two to three weeks after suffering acute blood flow problems in his brain. A doctor at the Innsbruck University Clinic said the 34-year-old would not have to undergo surgery. It was unclear whether the runner-up for the overall World Cup title in 1995 and 1996 had suffered a stroke. (Reuters)

A Coach for Cameroon

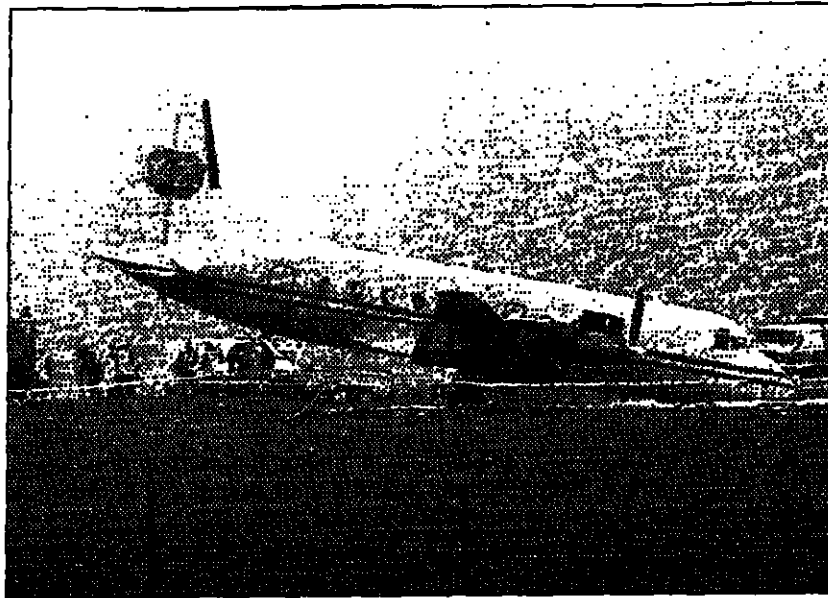
SOCCER Claude Le Roy, director of sport at French club Paris St. Germain, has accepted an offer to coach Cameroon during the World Cup finals, the club announced Tuesday. Coach Jean Onyiah quit after Cameroon's disappointing performance in the recent African Nations Cup. (AP)

Kwan in Top Form

FIGURE SKATING Michelle Kwan confirmed her status as the women's favorite by delivering a nearly perfect performance in qualifying at the World Figure Skating Championships in Minneapolis. The Olympic silver medalist earned a string of 5.9s from the judges for her long program and easily won her qualifying group. The Olympic champion, Tara Lipinski, is not competing, having decided to pass up a chance to defend her world title. (Reuters)



Michelle Kwan performing her long program in Minneapolis.



Nose down, the Leeds United plane lying on a Stansted runway Tuesday.

Leeds United Team Safe After Fire Aborts Takeoff

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — Members of Leeds United, one of Britain's major soccer teams, escaped injury Tuesday when their chartered plane crash-landed after the pilot aborted a takeoff after the right engine caught fire.

It was a terrifying reminder of an air disaster 40 years ago that wiped out much of the Manchester United team.

The plane, which had climbed only 150 feet (45 meters), overshoot the runway as it touched down. The nose wheel collapsed as the craft came to a stop about 300 feet from the perimeter fence at Stansted Airport, north of London.

Aboard the plane were a crew of 4 and 40 passengers, including 18 players.

Leeds United players and officials jumped out of the burning plane after it nosed into grass at the end of the runway. Some told of jumping 15 feet to the ground from the back door.

The only member of the Leeds party to be injured was an assistant manager, David O'Leary, who hurt his shoulder.

"Just as we got off the ground there was a fire in the right-side engine and as we got higher there was an explosion," O'Leary said. "All of a sudden it was like a roller-coaster. We dipped and hit the deck."

Leeds United had chartered the plane

from Emerald Airways, based in Belfast, to take the team back to northern England after it lost a match against the London club West Ham.

Peter Ridsdale, chairman of the Premier League club, said: "Everyone on board could see the flames and the explosion and everyone seemed to be shouting, 'Fire! There's a fire!'"

"It was dark. Our biggest fear was we knew we were well off the ground but what we weren't sure was what was in front of us."

"The flames were intense," he continued. "I could feel the heat through the windows."

Melvyn Seymour, the duty manager at Stansted, said: "I would think that they had another 30 seconds before there would have been a major fire."

The crash brought back memories of the Munich disaster in 1958 when a plane carrying Manchester United players crashed and burst into flames on takeoff.

Eight young players were killed, wiping out the cream of what many believed would have been Britain's greatest club team.

Despite the crash, Leeds said Tuesday that it planned to go ahead with the scheduled match against Barnsley on Saturday. (AP, Reuters)

Soccer's Politicians Playing It Safe

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — In a perfect world, the pulse beat of the international soccer aficionado would be rising. He or she would be lured this Wednesday toward Stadio delle Alpi or the Bernabeu, to see if Alessandro Del Piero or Roberto Carlos can produce marvelous goals for Juventus and Real Madrid. If they do, then with respect to Monaco and Borussia Dortmund we might be half way toward a UEFA Champions' League final to stand with the very best in European Cup history.

And when that is cut and dried, the supporter could turn to June when maybe the same individuals — or possibly the aristocracy of Ronaldo for Latin America, Zinedine Zidane for Europe, Nwankwo Kanu for Africa or Saeed Al-Owairan for Asia — will transcend the World Cup.

That, ideally, is what a sport is: a communion between those who pay and those who play.

How divorced from the reality of our times. This week began in England with death outside a soccer ground and with pitch invasions at separate matches where enraged fans apparently tried to assault the referees, but were rugby-tackled to the ground by vigilante players.

Because of this, the cry to bring back the fences, the dehumanizing steel cages separating fans from fields, is raised again. Because of this, Vicenza, a pleasant town in Italy, is being turned into a police garrison for Thursday's visit of Chelsea in the Cup Winners' Cup. Vicenza's night of sporting romance is dampened by a lock-up-your-daughters mentality, by strict orders that no alcohol will be allowed with dinner anywhere in the province.

If that is sad, if the joy in sport is compromised, then so be it. Italian authorities have no choice but to play safe after menacing English behavior provoked ugly police baton charges when England's national team visited Rome last fall. The forces of law and order allegedly have intelligence warnings of pre-arranged violence involving ticketless Chelsea fans and notorious hot-heads from Vicenza's neighboring Verona.

But, I hear you cry, tell us about the PLAY, enthuse us with the games on

offer. I will, a little bit. Getting there, however, is a hazard, as Leeds United players discovered when their plane crash-landed in London on Tuesday. Shaken, but miraculously not hurt, the team was brought abruptly to the conclusion that winning and losing is not the be-all of life. They had lost the game, they came close to losing much more, and they became aware that players control or influence very little.

So it is in the business of sport. The World Cup involves players from 32 countries, millions of spectators, thousands of workers, and hundreds of planners. Three of the men who hold highest office for the safe running of this World Cup, men whose minds should be concentrated on the day-to-day detail and the adjustments that may become necessary when incidents like those in England forewarn them, have put themselves in compromised positions.

Lennart Johansson, chairman of the World Cup organizing committee, combines that task with his duties as president of UEFA, the European body for soccer. He also, two years ago, declared his intent to stand for the presidency of FIFA, the ultimate soccer authority, when Joao Havelange retires on the eve of the June World Cup.

On Monday, however, Sepp Blatter, the full-time general secretary and chief executive of FIFA, declared himself an opponent for the presidency. Furthermore, Michel Platini, France's most famous former player and currently co-president of the host committee for the World Cup, announced that he has a pact with Blatter to become "sports director" should the Swiss defeat Johansson at the summer poll.

So we have arguably the three most important men in the organization distracted, to say the least. Insults flow. The Blatter-Havelange faction called Johansson "Germany's puppet" because he is committed to a European agreement supporting Germany's bid to play host for the 2006 World Cup. Johansson repaid the compliment accusing Blatter of being "Havelange's puppet." And Platini threw open the French World Cup offices, and used its

staff, to host Blatter's inaugural presidential campaign speech.

Blatter, in the name of fair play, has removed himself from FIFA House in Zurich. He continues to accept his salary, but to avoid conflicts of interest works from home, entrusting some of his day-to-day responsibilities to his deputy, Michel Zen-Ruffinen.

HAVELANGE, meanwhile, has written to the 198 FIFA nations that they can rest assured the general secretary is in full control. But he has ruled for 24 years without foreseeing the danger of his own succession, with ill-timing, preoccupies the most able men in the organization on the run-in to a World Cup larger, and therefore more difficult to manage, than any before it.

We are going to hear an awful lot of caussing, of politicking in the next 10 weeks. The protagonists will need to be global travelers — for example, to the Asian Confederation gathering in Kuala Lumpur this month. Would it not make sense for them to agree on one thing, to step aside and let those who can devote all their energies to the daily problems that challenge a successful World Cup in June?

For the rest of us, there are games to go to. Juventus has re-emerged strong in the Spring, its forwards Del Piero and Filippo Inzaghi suddenly rampant goalscorers, and it is hard to see Monaco, for all coach Jean Tigana's clever deployment of relatively lesser talents, surprising the mighty Italian club on Wednesday.

Less one-sided is Real Madrid, sometimes negligent in the league but beguiling on European nights, against Borussia Dortmund. The German team beat Juventus in last year's Champions' Cup Final and, despite horrendous injury lists, continues to show more appetite and pedigree for Europe than domestic fare. It is a personal impression that Real Madrid is geared to reclaiming glory that was lost 30 years ago, and that it will have to defeat Juventus in a classic finale in May to achieve it.

Rob Hughes is on the staff of The Times of London.

With Rios at No. 1, Tennis Fans See Speed and Finesse Defeat Power

By Steve Harrison
Washington Post Service

KEY BISCAIENE, Florida — The new No. 1 in the men's tennis rankings is a finesse player, which makes him a throwback in today's power game.

Marcelo Rios, a 5-foot-9, 140-pound (1.75-meter, 63-kilogram) Chilean, who makes up for his lack of size with speed and cunning, is the first South American to hold the top spot since the Association of Tennis Professionals started the ranking system in 1973, as well as the shortest player to reach the No. 1.

Rios climbed atop the rankings by defeating Andre Agassi in the final of the Lipton Championships over the weekend. When the rankings came out Monday, he had knocked Pete Sampras from No. 1, a spot Sampras had held for 102 consecutive weeks.

Rios, 22, has a tough forehead and can get from one place to another very quickly. He never seems to be chasing the ball, only shrewdly deciding where to place it. His serve isn't very fast, but it is accurate. On Sunday, he had 12 aces and kept Agassi — one of the game's best returners — on his heels.

Because he is left-handed and small, Rios and his style of play have been called deceptive.

"I never thought we'd see a player as good as Marcelo after Chang," Agassi

said, referring to Michael Chang, who is also small and very quick. "He brings another dimension to tennis. He really forces you to think, forces you to move, forces you to execute."

Rios, whose father is a civil engineer and whose mother is a teacher, grew up in Santiago playing soccer, which may explain his quick feet. He began playing tennis when he was 9, later than most current professional players.

After winning the 1993 U.S. Open juniors title, he turned professional the following year. In 1995, he finished No. 25 and won events in Bologna, Italy, and in Amsterdam and Kuala Lumpur. He was No. 11 in 1996 and No. 10 last year. His breakthrough match came last year when he reached the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open, where he lost to Chang in five sets.

Rios, who learned to play on red clay, once was a weak hardcourt player but is now a threat on any surface. This year, his record is 25-3 — all on hardcourts. He won titles in Indian Wells, California, two weeks ago and here in Florida on Sunday. The biggest improvement in his game has been serving. His percentage of service games won has jumped to 87.5 percent, the fourth-best on the tour, from 81 percent.

His rise has brought scrutiny of his on- and off-court behavior, which has made opponents bristle. He has a repu-

tation for quitting when behind and for being rude to fans and opponents.

Rios's coach is Larry Stefanki, who coached John McEnroe, a player similar to Rios. Both are left-handed, both are small, and both can be moody. "He's not going to be gregarious in the locker room," Stefanki told the Miami Herald. "He's very cut and dried. That's why we're still together."

Rios is the second player to become No. 1 without winning a Grand Slam event. Ivan Lendl reached the top spot in 1983 and later won eight majors. Rios's best opportunity to win a Grand Slam tournament came in this year's Australian Open, in which he reached the final but was routed by Petr Korda.

"Maybe this moment I'm playing better than everyone," Rios said. "But I don't feel like I'm really good, and everyone has a chance to beat me."

But Rios may not be No. 1 for long. Sampras, who trails Rios by 51 points — 3,651 to 3,600 — plays next week in Hong Kong. If he reaches the semifinals there, he will regain his top spot, because Rios won't play again until about two weeks from now, in Barcelona. Sampras and Rios, in fact, could be moving in and out of the No. 1 spot for the next several weeks.

Rios is the 14th player to reach No. 1 since the ATP Tour began its rankings in 1973 and the sixth-youngest. He is

also the fourth left-handed No. 1; McEnroe, Jimmy Connors and Thomas Muster were the others.

Before Rios, Guillermo Vilas of Argentina was the highest-ranked South American player. He was No. 2 in 1978.

Capriati Crashes Out

Jennifer Capriati, a former Top 10 player, was ousted in the first round of the Family Circle Cup by 148th-ranked Lori McNeil. The Associated Press reported from Hilton Head Island, South Carolina.

"I just didn't play that well in my book today," Capriati said Monday after losing 6-7 (7-4), 6-4, 6-4 to McNeil.

"There were a lot of things I could have done but didn't," Capriati was playing in only her second match of the year after being sidelined for two months by elbow and shoulder injuries. In her first match of the year March 19 at the Lipton Championships, she lost to Magdalena Grzybowska in the first round.

Capriati said she needed more match experience to regain her consistency. Three of the six seeds who played on the tournament's opening day lost their



Marcelo Rios, South America's first No. 1.

first-round matches.

No. 11 seed Sandrine Testud lost 6-3, 6-3 to Ruxandra Dragomir; No. 12 seed Anke Huber fell 7-5, 7-6 (7-5) to Magui Serna, and 13th seed Ai Sugiyama was ousted 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 by Alexandra Fusai.

Baseball's Payroll Plays

Can a \$30 Million Team Beat a \$70 Million One?

By Murray Chass
New York Times Service

MIAMI — As part of the opening game ceremonies at Pro Player Stadium, the Florida Marlins were to raise the World Series championship flag on Tuesday. Maybe they should fly it at half-staff in memory of half the World Series team that is no longer there.

The new-look Marlins were to open the season against a team that should serve as an object lesson to them. When the Chicago Cubs won the World Series in successive seasons, they and their fans probably thought that success would come often. Ninety years later, they are still waiting for their next World Series championship.

The Marlins, shorn in a payroll purge of \$20 million and 12 of their World Series players, were not the only new team opening the season Tuesday. Major League Baseball was to officially become a 30-team entity when the Tampa Bay Devil Rays open against the Detroit Tigers across the state at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg. Meanwhile, the Arizona Diamondbacks were to begin life against the Colorado Rockies at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix.

For the first time, one league, the National, has 16 teams. They include the Milwaukee Brewers, who after 28 years in the American League have be-

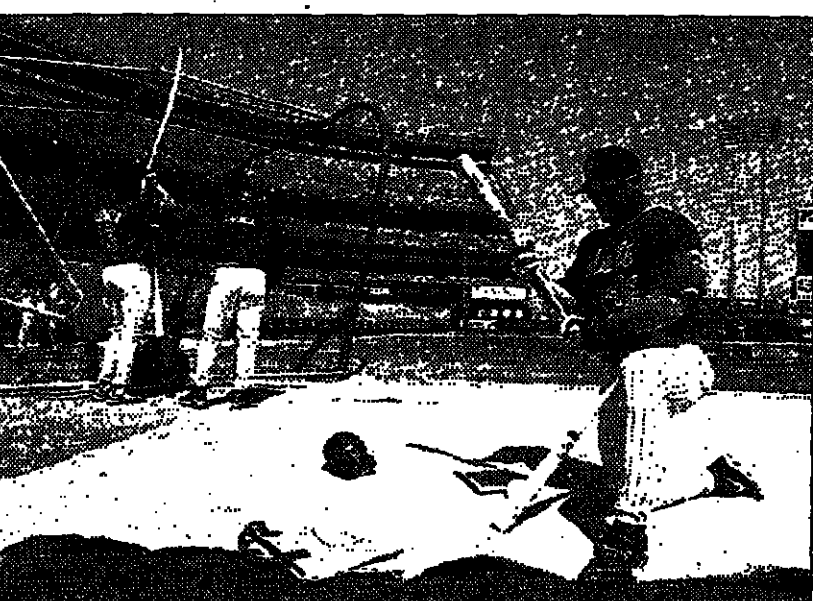
come the first team in this century to change leagues. The Brewers, who are part of the six-team Central Division, were to begin their new life against the Braves in Atlanta.

The Braves, who played in Milwaukee before the Brewers, will begin their quest for their seventh successive division crown. They are part of an elite class of teams that through sheer expenditure of money have established themselves as perennial playoff participants.

Another one of those teams, the Cleveland Indians, demonstrated that method again Monday, acquiring the right-hander Dave Burba and his \$2.3 million salary from the Cincinnati Reds, for whom he had been scheduled to start Tuesday's opener.

The Baltimore Orioles, who by setting their 25-man roster Monday attained the first \$70 million payroll in baseball history (\$70,068,134), have been in the playoffs the past two seasons. The teams with the next three highest payrolls — the Yankees, the Indians and the Braves — have been there each of the past three Octobers.

All four teams are expected to reach the playoffs again this season, leaving room for only four other teams, including just one in the American League. Does that mean there is no room for surprises any more? Can Anaheim, at about \$40 million, beat out Seattle and



Butch Huskey of the New York Mets warming up at Shea Stadium.

Texas, whose payrolls start with a 5? Can Toronto, which is just shy of that level, beat out the Orioles or the Yankees?

Can the Brewers go into their new league and steal a division championship with a payroll in the low \$30 million range when the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Cubs are in the low 50s? Can San Francisco win the West again when Colorado, Los Angeles and San Diego have wealthier players?

That, of course, is why teams play a 162-game schedule.

The first 11 of 2,430 games were scheduled for Tuesday, with the first

scheduled to be Philadelphia against the Mets at Shea Stadium in uncharacteristically warm weather that is reminiscent of spring training. The Yankees, with a game in Anaheim, are one of six American League teams that will open their seasons Wednesday.

The Arizona Diamondbacks' opener will mark the return to the dugout of Buck Showalter, who last managed a game that counted in 1995. He managed the Yankees then, and the game was Game 5 of the first-round playoff against the Mariners.

The Yankees lost the game, and a couple of weeks later they lost Showalter.

Rangers Feel the Lowly Sting As Lightning Lash Out, 3-1

By Tarik El-Bashir
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — They lost a top player, then lost to a team at the bottom of the league. It was that kind of day for the New York Rangers, the lowest point in a season full of lows.

First the Rangers' second-leading scorer, Pat LaFontaine, was ordered to call it a season because of a head injury he sustained two weeks ago. Then his teammates pretty much called it a season, too, losing by 3-1 to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

NHL Roundup

Lightning on Monday night and failing to pick up ground on Ottawa for the last playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. With eight games to play in the regular season, the Rangers trail the eighth-place Senators by 7 points.

"The whole season has been similar to this," said Brian Leetch, the Rangers' captain.

The sting for the Rangers was losing at home to a team that has won only 17 of 72 games and to a 21-year-old rookie goaltender, Zac Bierk, who shut them out for more than 58 minutes in achieving his first NHL victory. Meanwhile, the Rangers' rookie goaltender, Dan Cloutier, was given a 1-0 lead, but was replaced in the first minute of the third

period after allowing Tampa Bay's third goal.

The news regarding LaFontaine diminished somewhat whatever importance the game might have had for the Rangers. For LaFontaine, this is the second consecutive season cut short because of a concussion.

In other games, The Associated Press reported:

Bruins 4, Avalanche 1 The host Boston Bruins got two goals from Anson Carter and two gifts from Colorado players. Tim Taylor's clearing pass from his own zone during a Colorado power play hopped by the Avalanche goalie, Patrick Roy. Before Taylor's miscue gave Boston a 4-0 lead at 2:51 of the second period, Carter had his two goals and a Colorado defenseman, Uwe Krupp, had shot the puck into his own net.

Kings 3, Maple Leafs 2 In Toronto, Russ Courtnall's shorthanded goal with 1:39 remaining put an end to Toronto's comeback plans and dampened the Maple Leafs' playoff hopes.

Blues 6, Sharks 2 In St. Louis, Terry Yake had a goal and an assist during a four-goal second period, and Brett Hull picked up three assists to help the Blues beat San Jose.

Oilers 3, Flames 1 In Edmonton, Todd Marchant scored two goals as the Oilers moved into a tie for seventh place in the Western Conference.

Clawing the Title Back

Wildcats Escape 10-Point Hole to Beat Utes

By Jack Curry
New York Times Service

SAN ANTONIO — The giddy Kentucky Wildcats stood on a makeshift podium, which was appropriately draped in blue, as in Kentucky blue.

The players wore new white T-shirts and new white hats that naturally designated them as the national champions after they rallied to squash Utah, 78-69, at the Alamodome.

It was a classic college basketball scene Monday night. There was Jeff Sheppard, who chose not to play last season because he did not want to be a reserve, waving to the loyal fans. There was Scott Padgett, who once flunked out of Kentucky, hugging everyone he could get close to. There was Tubby Smith, the head coach who became a hero by winning a championship in his first year, grabbing a microphone and turning from gracious to gregarious.

"These players worked all year to prove themselves," Smith said. "They deserve to be called the national champs."

Redemption was very sweet and very quick for Kentucky, which avenged losing to Arizona in college basketball's marquee event a year ago and won the school's second title in three seasons. It was the Wildcats' seventh overall, second only to UCLA's 11. Kentucky found basketball nirvana by coming back in the second half from a 10-point deficit — the largest hole a team has ever climbed out of to win a title game — with defense, depth and deadly shooting.

"We all played poised," the Wildcats' Heshimu Evans said. "We know not to give up. We stayed positive. We came back. We're a fighting team, the comeback Cats."

Kentucky (34-4), a team filled with talent yet without one real superstar,

finished a glorious season by winning its final 13 games. Utah (30-4) had a 4-point lead with less than six minutes left, but the weary Utes could not win their first championship since 1944. "They whipped us and they're No. 1," said the Utah coach, Rick Majerus. "But we were No. 2 in the whole country."

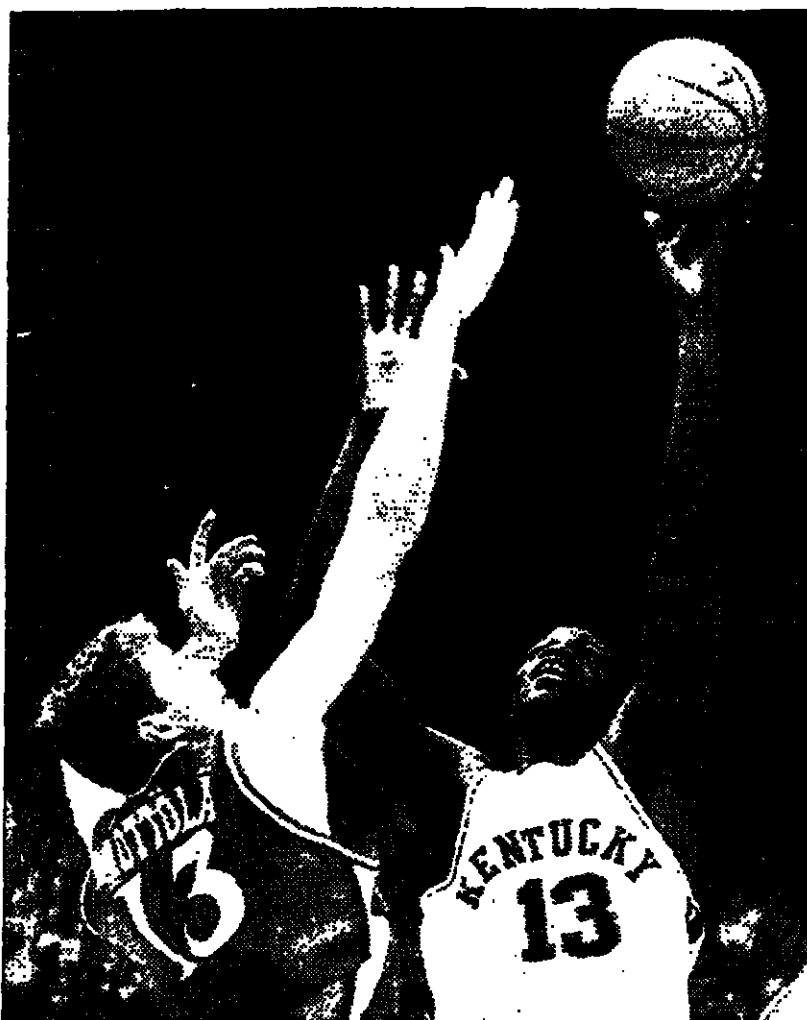
After pressuring Andre Miller (16 points), double-teaming Michael Doleac (15) and chasing the Utes for most of the game, the Wildcats took the lead for good as Cameron Mills drained a 3-pointer and Sheppard hit a twisting 8-footer along the right baseline to make it 65-64 with 4 minutes 53 seconds left. Utah had scored 6 straight to snatch a 64-60 lead, but

Kentucky responded and the Utes were spent. "They outplayed us down the stretch," Doleac said. "They deserved to win."

Jamaal Magloire blocked Doleac's shot and Miller missed a lay-up during Utah's next critical possession. As Kentucky kept pushing, Utah was in the midst of missing 11 straight shots and hobbling through the last 5:53 with one meaningless field goal with five seconds left. Magloire and Wayne Turner each made two free throws while Miller made one for Utah as the Wildcats extended the lead to 70-66 with 1:28 left.

Allen Edwards turned the ball over with 55 seconds left to give the Utes one last chance. It vanished as Evans blocked Miller's 3-point try with 45 seconds left, giving the Wildcats control of the ball and the game. Padgett, who scored 17 points, made two free throws and Evans, who had 10, nailed two to make it 74-66.

"Praise the Lord for the opportunity to be here and the opportunity to be with my teammates," said Sheppard, who scored 16 and was named the Final Four's most outstanding player. "I'm happiest for the team."



Nazr Mohammed of the Wildcats scoring over the Utes' Hanno Mottola.

Ndiaye Apologizes for Charge of Racial Slur

Washington Post Service

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — Makhtar Ndiaye, the University of North Carolina center, has recanted his charge that a Utah player used a racial slur during the national basketball championship semifinal game, and he apologized for making the accusation.

But Ndiaye maintained that he did not spit on Utah forward Britton

Johnsen, as Johnsen alleged after the Utes' 65-59 victory on Saturday.

On Monday, the North Carolina coach, Bill Guthridge, and Ndiaye met for about 15 minutes in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, then issued a written apology to Johnsen, Rick Majerus, the University of Utah coach and the entire Utes team. Johnsen said that he accepted the apology.

It's a Cinderella Story, But Starring Kentucky

By Michael Wilbon
Washington Post Service

SAN ANTONIO — Why should the final game have been any different from all that preceded it? Why shouldn't the NCAA championship game have come down, so appropriately, to a final eight minutes full of lead changes, dramatic shots, pressure free throws and soaring blocks?

To get their seventh NCAA basketball championship, the Kentucky Wildcats had to pull off their third straight

VANTAGE POINT

second-half, double-digit comeback on Monday night. And this one came against a bigger, stronger, more talented opponent than most people wanted to acknowledge.

This is one of the few Kentucky basketball teams that is completely without a star player. But Coach Tubby Smith convinced the players many games ago they didn't need one. So the Wildcats calmly got huge contributions from Cameron Mills, a reluctant shooter; Jamaal Magloire, their backup center; and Heshimu Evans, their sixth-leading scorer. It added up the way it has all season, to a Kentucky victory, 78-69, over Utah, which for most of the game looked more like the Big Bad Wolf than Cinderella.

A nearly six-minute scoreless stretch undid everything Utah had put together during the first 31 minutes. But Kentucky, as Duke and Stanford found out previously, is one great counterpuncher coming off the ropes.

When the Utes extended their lead to a dozen points over Kentucky early in the second half, it looked as if the championship game might follow the same script as Utah's previous victories.

That's when Evans, a 32 percent three-point shooter, quickly ran off eight points, including two three-pointers, to reduce a 45-33 Utah lead to 50-45. It was also Evans, a 6-foot-6 junior,

who came out to challenge Andre Miller's three-point attempt with Kentucky clinging to a 70-66 lead.

Instead of just making Miller take a tougher shot, Evans blocked it. And the Wildcats prolonged Utah's scoring drought, choking off any chance Utah had of winning a game it had controlled for so long.

Having trailed in its previous two games, Kentucky seemed to have its comeback thing down pat. Kentucky's resourcefulness and Utah's fatigue seemed to determine the outcome in the end. That the Wildcats could be dominated early and adjust dramatically late said volumes about Kentucky, and about how good a team Utah is.

The notion that Utah was some big underdog is the most preposterous thing imaginable. We're talking about a team that opened the season by winning a school-record 18 straight games. The Utes didn't lose a game until Feb. 1. They entered Monday night's game 30-3. Kentucky was ranked No. 5 in the final regular season polls; Utah was No. 7.

A seventh-ranked team is now Cinderella? If you go simply by the talent, Utah easily could have been the favorite coming into the game.

Utah's Michael Doleac, 6-11 and 265 pounds of rock, could very well be the first player selected in the NBA draft. Utah's 6-10 Hanno Mottola, a sharp-shooting sophomore who was probably the best pure athlete on the floor. But the Utes needed a much bigger lead than that against this Kentucky team, and they appeared too tired to build one.

Kentucky, meanwhile, seemed to have plenty of energy, plenty of bounce for those final minutes. Perhaps it was knowing the Wildcats had lost so many players from Rick Pitino's championship team two years ago, and still more from Pitino's NCAA runner-up team last season, but found a way to get back to the championship anyway. Maybe enough people didn't appreciate the team that really had the storybook season.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

| Team | W | L | Pct. |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Boston | 20 | 8 | .714 |
| Texas | 21 | 11 | .657 |
| California | 17 | 10 | .630 |
| San Diego | 19 | 13 | .594 |
| Atlanta | 18 | 13 | .581 |
| Seattle | 18 | 13 | .581 |
| New York | 15 | 12 | .556 |
| Detroit | 17 | 14 | .548 |
| San Francisco | 16 | 16 | .500 |
| Los Angeles | 15 | 16 | .485 |
| Chicago | 14 | 17 | .448 |
| Minnesota | 14 | 21 | .400 |
| Tampa Bay | 12 | 18 | .400 |

ICE HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

| Team | W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| New Jersey | 45 | 19 | 9 | 103 | 140 | 140 |
| Philadelphia | 37 | 24 | 11 | 85 | 213 | 171 |
| Washington | 33 | 28 | 11 | 77 | 190 | 184 |
| N.Y. Rangers | 32 | 28 | 10 | 74 | 209 | 209 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 34 | 32 | 10 | 78 | 195 | 204 |
| Florida | 31 | 29 | 12 | 74 | 174 | 225 |
| Tampa Bay | 27 | 30 | 13 | 67 | 142 | 229 |

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

| Team | W | L | Pct. |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Boston | 20 | 8 | .714 |
| Texas | 21 | 11 | .657 |
| California | 17 | 10 | .630 |
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DENNIS THE MENACE

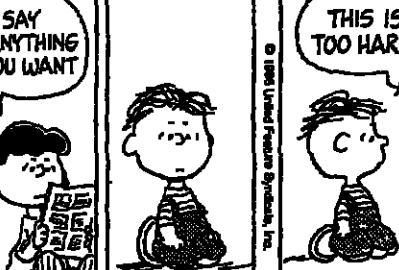


"DON'T YOU BELIEVE IN ANYTHING? YOUR FIGHT DOESN'T HAVE ANY WRITING ON IT."

PEANUTS



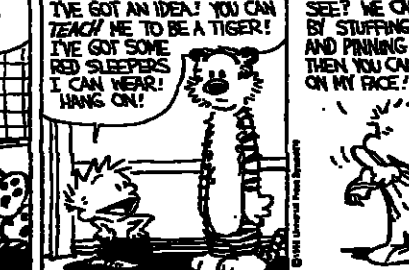
GARFIELD



WIZARD of ID



NON SEQUITUR



DOONESBURY



JUMBLE

That scrambled word game by David Arnold and Mike Arnold

| Word | Letters |
|--------|---|
| TAFOO | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 |
| ANSPI | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 |
| EMVOIT | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 |
| TARGE | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 |

OBSERVER

Swoon River Anthology

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — Juliet Capulet, they say, was 14 when she lost her heart to Romeo Montague. According to the 1996 movie about that affair, Romeo looked exactly like Leonardo DiCaprio, the romantic lead in "Titanic."

Hordes of modern Juliets, brand new to puberty, are so fettered by the maritime manifestation of DiCaprio that they sit through "Titanic" again and again to be with him before the cold Atlantic asserts its irresistible claim to his charms.

Friends tell me of 14-year-olds who have already seen the movie six times. Six times! I gape in wonder at the emotional chasm separating me from age 14.

The DiCaprio phenomenon is not new, however. Frank Sinatra — believe it or not, kiddies and boomers, Frank Sinatra! — once had the power to reduce adolescent girls to such quivering, swooning and cries of pagan ecstasy that Dad kept a shotgun handy at the front door for use should Sinatra ever come calling.

The Beatles had the same effect on young girls of the boomer generation. By that time, Dad, having fallen under the influence of Dr. Spock, had put the shotgun away and contented himself with asking Mom to make sure Daughter didn't go out without her pill.

Thus arrived the age of the "groupie," a polite synonym for "camp follower," connoting a very young woman available for corymbic frenzies with stars of the performing arts, including sports.

DiCaprio's powers do not even begin with modern show business. Franz Liszt, the

greatest pianist of the mid-19th century, was said to have been so irresistible that he could have had any woman in Europe. And what about Lord Byron!

The desire to be irresistible to 14-year-olds, of course, declines in most men as they hit the age of 17, but even beyond the frosted age of 30 one would like to think that women of whatever age are powerless to gaze upon him without feeling disturbing internal flutterings.

But for whom do they flutter? For the DiCaprios of the world. For the Sinatras, the Liszts, the Byrons.

There is no explanation for this unless — God forbid! — we drag in old Grandfather Freud. Why are 14-year-olds flocking to see "Titanic" time and again but not to see "Good Will Hunting"? With Matt Damon, "Good Will Hunting" has a leading man with a friendly 16-year-old face and a winsome smile.

He is practically interchangeable with DiCaprio, you might suppose, but it's not Matt whom the 14-year-olds pay and pay and pay to see so they can feel that dreamy look settle into their eyes.

Is it because Matt gets the girl in the end while Leonardo succumbs to hypothermia? An early death always tugs the romantic heartstrings more sweetly than getting the girl, provided the death isn't happening to you or somebody you know.

Still, most young male sex objects do not die, but live on until new crops of 14-year-old girls can only marvel that grandmother ever swooned over such relics. Even in their rocking chairs, of course, relics have the memories. Most of us don't.

New York Times Service

Family's Tales of China Carry Playwright to Fame

By Bruce Weber
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — It was a great event in the life of a small theater company, a first night in a brand-new space. It was a great night for a playwright whose newest play is about to open a continent away. And it was a great night for the playwright's family, particularly his immigrant parents, who saw their legacy engraved in stone. Indeed, more than anything, this is a family story.

The company, East West Players, perhaps the United States' preeminent Asian-American theater troupe, had been estimated slogging away in a cramped 99-seat house in the Little Tokyo neighborhood of the city for 13 years.

But on this night in mid-March it had just held the first preview performance of "Pacific Overtures," the 1976 Stephen Sondheim-Hugh Wheeler musical about the Westernization of Japan, in its new 220-seat home just a few blocks away.

The audience had been enthusiastic. Spirits were high. The theater, at the Union Center for the Arts, in a comfortably refurbished church once used as a registration center for Japanese-American internment camps during World War II, was filled with benefactors and well-wishers.

Onstage, George Takei, a board member (better known as Sulu from "Star Trek"), introduced the playwright, David Henry Hwang. Hwang was 8 when his mother, Dorothy, as the piano player for an East West production of "The Medium" by Gian Carlo Menotti, took her son to rehearsals and in so doing introduced him to the world of theater.

Since then, four of Hwang's plays have been produced at East West. His latest project, though, is bound for a bigger stage, the Longacre Theatre on Broadway, where it opens Thursday. The play, "Golden Child," was originally produced in 1996 at the Joseph

Papp Public Theatre, where critics deemed it wanting.

It has now been rewritten and will be the first work by Hwang to open on Broadway since "M. Butterfly" in 1988. Takei reminded the audience that "M. Butterfly" was the first play by an Asian-American to be nominated for a Tony Award, which it won.

"As he has achieved, the East West Players has popped its collective buttons at his achievements," Takei said. This was no impromptu encomium. It was a ceremony. Takei also introduced the playwright's parents, Henry and Dorothy Hwang, who contributed \$150,000 to the construction of the theater, enough to earn them naming rights. The name they chose: the David Henry Hwang Theatre.

Both Henry Hwang, an ordinarily effusive man, and his wife declined to speak that night; indeed, there was a charmingly awkward moment onstage as the parents sought the shadow of their son, who seemed a bit nonplussed himself.

"I should be called the East West Players playwright, rather than the theater being called the David Henry Hwang Theatre," the 40-year-old Hwang told the audience. Whether or not the gesture by his parents was "a little over the top," in the playwright's words, their contribution to his art is unmistakable. With a couple of exceptions, "M. Butterfly" being one, Hwang's subject has been the experience of Asian — or, more specifically, Chinese — immigrants in America and how they forge the traditions of the old country with the cultural exigencies of the new. (His father said earlier with a laugh: "When I first saw 'Family Devotions,' I was very offended." But then, he is the first to admit he is not much of a critic.)

Hwang has based much of his work, which is often comic, on his own family, whose affluence provides an unusual vantage point for viewing the immigrant experience, and whose Christian background provides an unusual vantage



Hwang was 8 when his mother introduced him to the theater.

point for viewing the Chinese tradition. As someone who has often had to bear the burden of being the representative Asian-American playwright and has occasionally been criticized as an inauthentic Asian voice, Hwang — who grew up in the San Fernando Valley, went to private high school and Stanford — isn't terribly representative.

"I do ponder this issue," he said in an interview at his parents' new home in suburban San Marino. "How much do I want to be an Asian-American playwright? How much do I want to be an American playwright? In my life, I think I

continue to try and make the distinction between what is Christian and Western in my background and what is Chinese."

Slightly built and fashionably bedraggled, he is talkative and modest, with an easy candor. He lives in New York City with his wife, Kathryn Layng, an actress, and their 2-year-old son, Noah. Asked whether he was nervous about going back to Broadway with "Golden Child," after his last play, "Face Value," closed during previews, he said no, that he knew "Face Value" needed work and that he didn't give himself enough

time to do it. Whatever the fate of "Golden Child," he added, it has been rewritten to his satisfaction. "Golden Child" is a family history play that takes place largely in China at the turn of the century. It has a framing device: a contemporary American-Chinese couple living in Manhattan have been discussing having a child, and this causes the husband to conjure the memory of his mother and her stories of her life. But the bulk of the play concerns his mother's childhood in China, where her father, a wealthy businessman fascinated by Western philosophy, had three wives.

Her mother was the eldest, or First Wife, as she is called, a woman who grows increasingly desperate and increasingly fond of opium as her husband's attention passes to his younger wives.

The play is based on stories told to Hwang by his maternal grandmother about her childhood in China, when Hwang was 10 and went to visit her in the Philippines, where her father had moved their family. Drawing on the stories, Hwang, in a precocious bit of literary might, wrote a 90-page "novel," which he returned to, years later, for the play.

His grandmother is now 92 and living with relatives. She chose not to be interviewed, though she has seen "Golden Child" and apparently liked it. "The only thing was, she was unhappy that people would think her mother was an opium addict," said her daughter, Dorothy Hwang.

The playwright himself still finds his literary effort as a 10-year-old remarkable. "It is sort of striking, really, that I thought it was important to know what my family history was, and that I went to see her that summer and we did these oral histories. In retrospect I think it has to do with needing to understand myself in the context of being a Chinese-American growing up in Southern California, when there were a lot fewer Asians than there are now."

Betsey Whitney's Art Gifts

By Carol Vogel
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Betsey Cushing Roosevelt Whitney, the New York socialite and philanthropist who amassed one of the United States' great private art collections, bequeathed 15 major works by Picasso, van Gogh, Matisse, Toulouse-Lautrec and other masters to the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The gifts are estimated to be worth about \$300 million.

Whitney, who died March 25 at the age of 89, was the widow of John Hay (Jack) Whitney, the first wife of James Roosevelt and the last of the three celebrated Cushing sisters of Boston, the glamorous women known in the 1930s and 1940s for their marriages into some of America's most prominent families.

Among the works that Whitney left the National Gallery, where her husband was a trustee from 1961 to 1979, are van Gogh's "Self Portrait, Saint-Remy, September 1889," one of the artist's most charismatic self-portraits, and Toulouse-Lautrec's "Mar-

celle Lender Dancing the Bolero in Chilperic," painted in 1895 and 1896. The work is considered by many art historians to be the greatest Toulouse-Lautrec in the United States.

The gallery also received a brightly colored Vlamincq, "Tugboat on the Seine, Chatou," from 1906; Braque's "The Harbor of La Ciotat," from 1907; and Matisse's "Open Window, Collioure," from 1905.

The Museum of Modern Art, where Whitney was an honorary trustee for many years, received seven major paintings, including a 1901 Picasso self-portrait, which was one of the first likenesses of himself; a study for one of Matisse's most famous images, "Luxe, Calme et Volupte," which the artist painted in the summer of 1904; a Cezanne landscape, "Turning Road at Montgeroult," and van Gogh's "The Olive Tree."

Over their 46-year marriage, the Whitneys amassed one of the world's greatest private collections of modern masters. It is rivaled only by those of Stavros Niarchos, the Greek shipping magnate, and Walter Annenberg, the former U.S. ambassador to Britain.



A detail of Toulouse-Lautrec's Bolero dance.

PEOPLE

THE daughter of the late actress Joan Crawford isn't finished yet with her "Mommie Dearest." Twenty years after publishing the tell-all book about being abused by her adoptive mother, Christina Crawford is hitting the road to promote a 400-page revision. "I put in eyewitness accounts that had come to me after the book was published," she said. "It's now a complete chronicle of a very turbulent and chaotic and compelling, and in some instances, loving relationship that covers almost 40 years." She begins a series of speaking engagements Wednesday in Los Angeles. "April Fool's with Christina Crawford" will also tour Seattle, New York and Chicago. The new book, which she published by herself, is available through the Internet. Joan Crawford died in 1977.

Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily, the 20-month-old child of Paula Yates and the late rock star Michael Hutchence, was christened Tuesday at a tightly guarded church in Sydney, where a photographer was hurt. The photographer, Brendan Esposito, was pushed off a wall as he tried to photograph guests arriving at the church, colleagues said.

Hutchence, frontman for INXS, was found hanged last November in a Sydney hotel.

Macaulay Culkin, the star of the "Home Alone" movies, is marrying the actress Rachel Miner. Both are 17. "We're so happy and proud that we found each other at such a young age," they said in a statement. "We look forward to spending our lives together." No wedding date has been set, they said. Miner co-stars in "The Diary of Anne Frank" on Broadway.

Rikard Nilsson of the Operakällaren restaurant in Stockholm has been named Europe's best young chef in the fifth European gastronomy competition held in Bordeaux, France.

Bruno Masure, who was dismissed last fall from his position on the France 2 nightly news program, has won the 7 d'Or award for best television anchorman. The Golden 7 awards, presented by the Tele 7 Jours television magazine, are voted on by the public.

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| Egypt (Cairo) | 510-0200 | Italy | 172-1011 | Switzerland | 0800-89-0011 |
| France | 0-800-99-0011 | Netherlands | 0800-022-9111 | United Kingdom | 0500-89-0011 |
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